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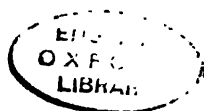
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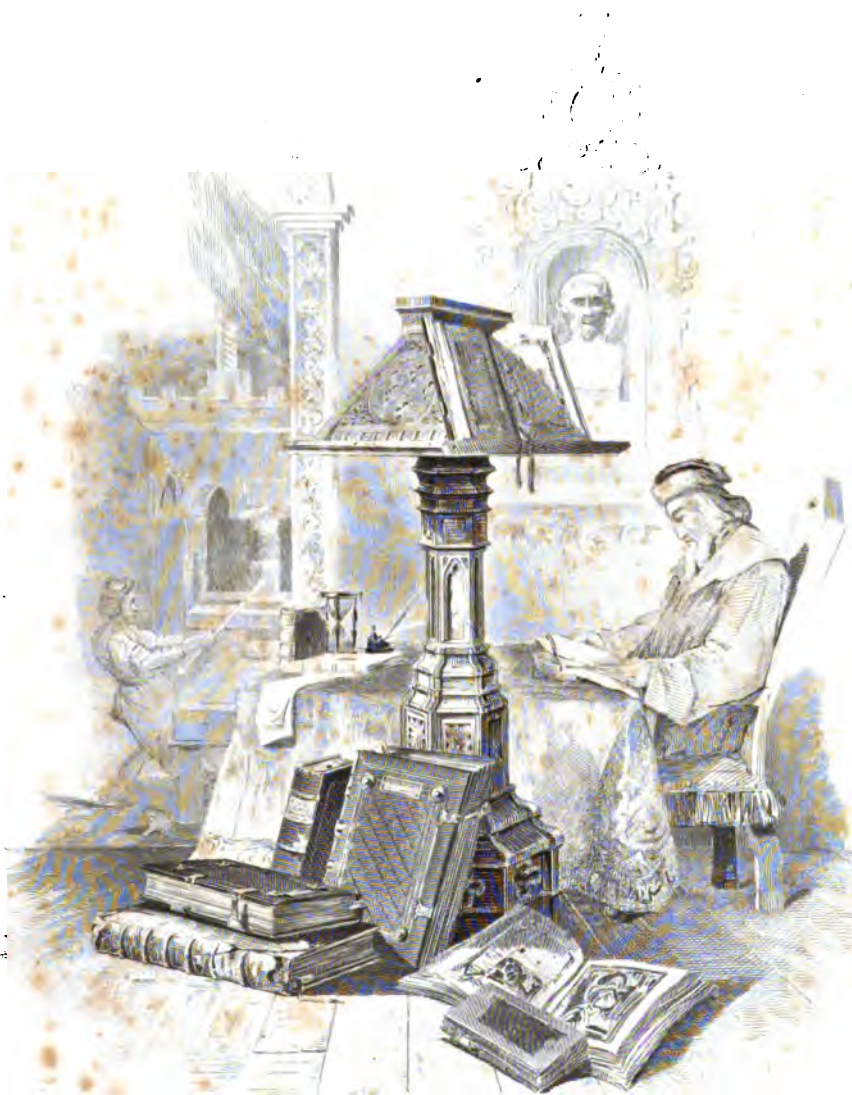
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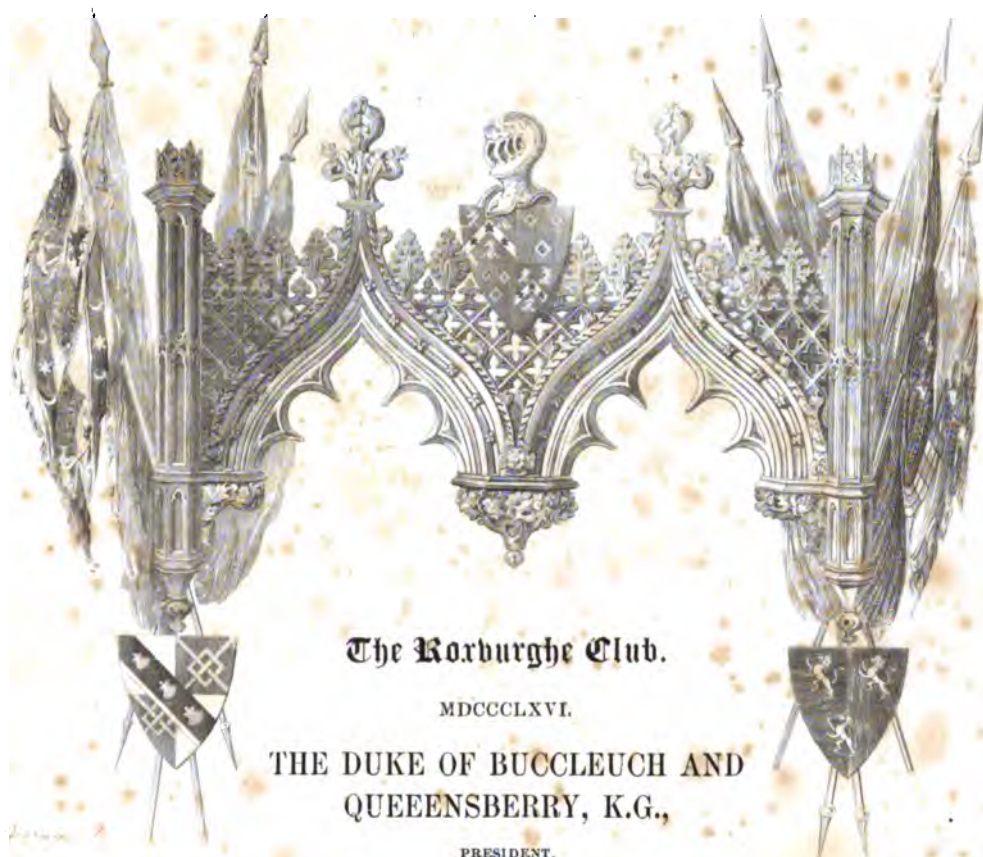
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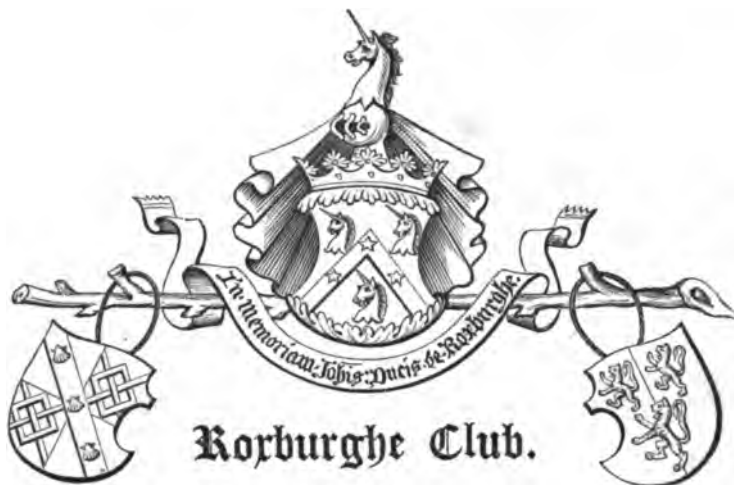


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PRINTED FOR THE CLUB. 1857.

The Itineraries of WILLIAM WEY, Fellow of Eton College, to Jerusalem, A.D. 1458 and A.D. 1462 ; and to Saint James of Compostella, A.D. 1456. From the original MS. in the Bodleian Library.
PRINTED FOR THE CLUB. 1857.

The Boke of Noblesse ; Addressed to King Edward the Fourth on his Invasion of France in 1475. With an Introduction by JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS, F.S.A.

LORD DELAMERE. 1860.

Songs and Ballads, with other Short Poems, chiefly of the Reign of Philip and Mary. Edited, from a Manuscript in the Ashmolean Museum, by THOMAS WRIGHT, Esq., M.A., F.S.A., &c. &c.
ROBERT S. HOLFORD, Esq. 1860.

De Regimine Principum, a Poem by THOMAS OCCLEVE, written in the Reign of Henry IV. Edited for the first time by THOMAS WRIGHT, Esq., M.A., F.S.A., &c. &c.

PRINTED FOR THE CLUB. 1860.

The History of the Holy Graal ; partly in English Verse by Henry Lonelich, Skynner, and wholly in French Prose by Sires Robiers de Borron. In two volumes. Edited, from MSS. in the Library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and the British Museum, by FREDERICK J. FURNIVALL, Esq., M.A., Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

PRINTED FOR THE CLUB. 1861 AND 1863.

Roberd of Brunne's Handlyng Synne, written A.D. 1203 ; with the French Treatise on which it is founded, Le Manuel des Pechiez by William of Waddington. From MSS. in the British Museum and Bodleian Libraries. Edited by FREDERICK J. FURNIVALL, Esq., M.A.

PRINTED FOR THE CLUB. 1862.

The Old English Version of Partonope of Blois. Edited for the first time from MSS. in University College Library and the Bodleian at Oxford, by the REV. W. E. BUCKLEY, M.A., Rector of Middleton Cheney, and formerly Rector of Brasenose College.
PRINTED FOR THE CLUB. 1862.

Philosophaster, Comœdia; Poemata auctore Roberto Burtono, S. Th. B. Democrito Juniore. Ex Æde Christi, Oxon.
MR. BUCKLEY. 1862.

La Queste del Saint Graal. In the French Prose of Maistres Gautiers Map, or Walter Map. Edited by FREDERICK J. FURNIVALL, Esq., M.A., Trinity Hall, Cambridge.
PRINTED FOR THE CLUB. 1864.

PREFACE.

SIR AMIAS POULET,¹ *knt.*, of Hinton St. George, in the county of Somerset, was the eldest son of Sir Hugh Poulet, and the representative of the elder branch of the family, from the younger branch of which were descended the Marquesses of Winchester and the Dukes of Bolton.² Sir Hugh Poulet, Captain³ of the Isle of Jersey, won no inconsiderable glory as a soldier. He was knighted for his services at the siege of Boulogne, A.D. 1544,⁴ and in

¹ The name has been spelled in various ways: the spelling in the text being adopted as that of the autograph printed in Nichols's "Volume of Autographs of Remarkable Persons" and of the inscription of his tomb. Dr. Blackbourne, in the Collection prefixed to his edition of Bacon's Works (fol. Lond. 1730. p. 35), says that it is uniformly spelled Powlet in these Letters. But this is not strictly correct. The name is spelled Pawlett, pp. 32, 49, 59; Poulet, pp. 141, 231, 243, 244; and Powlet, p. 224.

² The common ancestor of the two branches was Sir John Poulet, who was married in 1378, and had two sons, Thomas and William. (Hardinge's Biogr. Mirr. vol. ii. p. 74. 4to. Lond. 1795.) Hinton St. George came into the possession of the elder branch by the marriage of Sir William Paulett (in the reign of Henry VI.) with Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John Denebaud, Esq. (Leland's Itin. vi. 12.)

³ The military Commandants of Jersey held the successive titles of Count, Duke (these two when the island was subject to France), Lord, Bailly, Warden, King (this in person of one commandant, at least, viz. Henry Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, styled "Rex de Wight et Jersey," A.D. 1446), Captain, and Governor. The title of Governor was conferred by special Order of Council, dated June 15, 1618. See Dr. Fall's *Cæsarea*, or Account of Jersey, p. 200. 8vo. Lond. 1734.

⁴ See Collins's *Peerage of England*, vol. iv. p. 4. 8vo. Lond. 1812.

3 Edw. VI. held command against the rebels of Devonshire and Cornwall, whom he defeated, receiving the next year as a reward the Captainship of Jersey. Dr. Fall speaks of him as "a man of great note in his time for political wisdom and abilities, and a zealous promoter of the Reformation of Religion in this island."⁵ By his second wife Philippa, daughter and heiress of Sir Lewis Pollard, of King's Nymton, Devon, knt., he had three sons, Amias, Nicholas, George,⁶ and a daughter Jane (who married Christopher Coppleston, of Coppleston, Devon, Esq.). Dying in the year 1570-1, he was succeeded in his Captainship by his son Amias, who was knighted in the year 1575-6. In this year⁷ also, Sir Amias received his appointment to the Embassy in France, during which the letters were written which form this volume. Before this he must have made himself a good name, if a quotation from a letter of Burghley's be genuine,⁸ wherein, writing to Poulet immediately before his setting out for France, he says: "I can give you no better council than yourself hath in store; change not your manners with the soil you go to; confirm by your actions abroad the good opinion you have at home, namely for your religion and discretion." He had already proved his zeal for the reformed religion by the administration of his office in Jersey, and the

⁵ *Cæsarea*, p. 190.

⁶ The brothers Nicholas and George Poulet are spoken of by Sir Amias, as living in Jersey (p. 25). George Poulet is also spoken of repeatedly as accompanying him on his embassy.

⁷ See Blackbourne, *Preface to Bacon's Works*, p. 36.

⁸ Hardinge (*Biogr. Mirr.* vol. ii. p. 74) quotes this passage from a letter which, with that of Elizabeth (mentioned afterwards) from Greenwich, dated Oct. 22, 1579, he says, "is in a large collection of MSS. preserved among the family papers of Earl Poulett at Hinton St. George." The present Earl Poulett has kindly, at the Editor's request, caused search to be made for these letters; but, unhappily, neither they, nor any trace of such collection as is spoken of, can be discovered.

hospitality which he had shown to the Huguenot refugees from France.⁹ Indeed, it seems not improbable that his appointment to the Embassy was due in some measure to his connection with the French Protestants, and perhaps to a desire of Elizabeth to get rid for a time of the inconvenience of having so zealous a partisan in so delicate a position as Poulet held in Jersey, where he might easily compromise her by open offence to the French king. Dr. Fall, in an account of the rapid undermining of the Established Church in the islands by the admission of these exiles, says: "They who had it in their power, and whose duty it was to have checked these novelties, to wit the Governors in each island, Sir Amias Paulet in Jersey, and Sir Thomas Leighton¹⁰ in Guernsey, were the most forward to encourage them, whether out of principle, or affectation of popularity, or a mean view of self-interest in the suppression of Deaneries," (which had an allowance from the tithes, and so diminished the revenues of the islands,) "which, of course, must fall with the Establishment, I will not determine." But, whatever was the motive of his appointment, that he maintained his reputation during his stay abroad is proved by the satisfaction of his mistress, expressed in a letter which she wrote to him from Greenwich, dated October 22, 1579, on or immediately before his return to England. There is nothing beyond the history of the period, and the evidence gained from the contents of these letters, to guide us

⁹ Fall says (*Cæsarea*, p. 93) that the islands of Guernsey and Jersey were both great refuges for men of good quality from France. As many as fifty French Protestant ministers (p. 285) fled to Jersey during the reign of Elizabeth. Indeed, it was the fear of the French resentment occasioned by this which caused the building of Elizabeth Castle, and the improved fortifications of the islands. *La Popeliniere* (livr. xxxiv. p. 143) enumerates the principal refugees in Jersey in April 1578, and praises "la dilligence du Gouverneur Maistre Polet, qui l'a come en don de la Royne a la charge d'y entretenir tant de peuples, et d'y faire cultiver tant de terre."

¹⁰ To whom one of these letters is addressed, p. 244.

as to the special purposes for which he was sent to France. Doubtless the principal objects of his mission were to watch the course of events during the war then raging in France, to blind the French King Henry III., as far as possible, to the aid which Elizabeth was inclined to lend to the Huguenots at Rochelle and elsewhere, to give the earliest information of any surprise from Fitzmorris or Westmerland on the side of Ireland, and to pacify the French Court as to Elizabeth's dealings with her prisoner Mary, Queen of Scots. It is probable also that he had some charge with reference to the marriage which was negotiated between his mistress and Monsieur, the Duke d'Alençon (afterwards D'Anjou), the King's brother,¹¹ who would have been abundantly willing to carry out the match.¹² The following extracts from Burghley's "Diary of Events in Queen Elizabeth's Reign" ¹³ serve to fix the dates of the commencement and conclusion of his embassy, and to show its probable connection with the proposed marriage:—

"1572, Aug. 22.—Answer given to La Motte at Kenelworth, that came to move marriage for Francis D. of Alanson (the youngest brother of the French King), that there were two Difficulties, one for Difference of Religion, the other for their Ages, but yet that the

¹¹ There are some passages in his letters which seem to have some mysterious reference to the Duke d'Alençon. See, for example, pp. 5, 148, 152. The allusions to Mary are very frequent; and it is difficult not to construe such dark allusions as those on pp. 35, 181, by the light of his subsequent appointment, and connect his advice with the celebrated "*aut fer aut feri: ne feriare, feri*," said to have been so frequently on Elizabeth's lips during the days preceding the signature of Mary's death-warrant. (Camden, Ann. Eliz. p. 532.)

¹² On his views and prospects, see Crowe's Hist. of France, vol. iii. p. 181.

¹³ Printed in Murrin's Collection of State Papers (fol. Lond. 1759), which also contains a number of interesting papers, principally compiled by Burghley, with reference to this marriage.

Articles moved in his Brother's the D. of Anjou's case might serve for hym.

"Sep. 23.—Francis D. of Alanson writeth to hir Majesty by Mason Fleur.

"Nov.—Mason Fleur came to Hampton Court from the Duke of Alanson.

[Then follow many entries concerning the Duke's proposed visit to England.]

"1576, Sep. 25.—Sir Amyas Paulet landed at Callis, going to be Ambassador at France in place of Dr. Dale.

"Feb.—Sir Amyas Paulet, Ambassador in France.

"1579, June 16.—A Treaty at Westminster with Mons. Semyers for Mons. the Duke of Anjou's marriage.

"Sep.—Mons. the Duke of Alanson came to Greenwich secretly, and lodged at Mr. Light's house.

"Nov. 1.—Sir H. Cobham sent to the Ambassador in France, and Sir Amyas Paulet revoked.

"Nov. 22.—*Articuli concordati pro matrimonio Franc. Ducis Andium per D. de Burghley Thesaur. D. Suss. D. Lecest. et D. Wilson pro Regina et Jo. Symyers pro Duce Andium.*

"1581, April.—The Commissioners sent from the French King to treat of marriage for Mons. the Kyng's brother, the Prince Dolphyn. Maresh. de Cosse, Mons. Lansack, Mons. de * * of Normandy, Mons. La Motte, President Brisson, Secretary Pynard."

We may see presently, when considering Poulet's character, that he was probably thought not the fittest person to negotiate a love-match for his mistress with a dissipated young Catholic prince. After his return from France, nothing more is heard of him till his appointment to the office, which has rendered his name so notorious. In 1585 he was summoned to Tutbury, to take charge, in con-

junction with Sir Drue Drury, of the unfortunate Queen of Scots. The motives which led to this appointment are not quite clear. The common story is, that Elizabeth, finding the Earl of Shrewsbury too lenient a custodian for her purpose, appointed Poulet and Drury, hoping, from her knowledge of their characters, that their treatment of the prisoner would be severe enough to rid her of her rival without the necessity of a trial or further publicity. Of this view Robertson is the accepted exponent;¹⁴ and it is certainly in

¹⁴ Robertson's words are these :—" Elizabeth resolved to take her out of the hands of the Earl of Shrewsbury, and to appoint Sir Amias Paulet and Sir Drue Drury to be her keepers. Shrewsbury had discharged his trust with much fidelity during fifteen years; but, at the same time, had treated Mary with gentleness and respect, and had always sweetened harsh commands by the humanity with which he put them into execution. The same politeness was not to be expected from men of an inferior rank, whose severe vigilance perhaps was their chief recommendation to that employment, and the only merit by which they could pretend to gain favour or preferment." (*Hist. of Scotland*. 8vo. Lond. 1794. Vol. ii. book vii. p. 124.) In contradiction to this statement, there exists a letter from Sir John Somers to a Mr. Thomas Stringar, dated from Tutbury Castle, Feb. 15, 1584 (printed by Lodge in his *Illustr. to Brit. Hist.* vol. ii. p. 306), which proves that Lord St. John, of Bletso, afterwards one of the Commissioners on Mary's trial (see *Strangvage's Life of Mary*, p. 158), was first appointed to succeed Shrewsbury, and Poulet only hastened to Tutbury on St. John's inability through illness to undertake the post. Lodge also adds, that not only did Shrewsbury resign voluntarily, but that he had held the office most unwillingly for many years at the Queen's instance; and that not only did the nomination of St. John take place before that of Poulet, but that Mildmay, and after him Somers, succeeded Shrewsbury before St. John was nominated. (Somers, however, does not seem to have held precisely the same office as Shrewsbury or Poulet, but rather to have been a kind of Chamberlain of the Household.) As to Shrewsbury's leniency, and his unwillingness to retain his office, Shrewsbury himself may be held the best witness. Writing to Elizabeth from Sheffield Castle (whither Mary had been removed three years before), 29th Dec. 1573, he says :—" I do conceive by sum wordes your Heyghness uttered of late to my son Gylbert, an alteration to my discomforte; for although I am without spott of the least undutifull respect to your Heyghness, yet may I fere sum scruple or doubte to be wrought in your Majesty's judgement of me at one Tyme or other by the cuning practises of the Scots Quene

great measure confirmed by the stories extant, at the time as well as afterwards, of Poulet's cruel harshness, by the attempt of Walsingham to induce Poulet to incriminate Mary by the machinations of a servant, and by the celebrated "assassination" letter to Poulet and Drury, signed by both Walsingham and Davison.¹⁵

and her Friends in discredit of my Service here. * * * * * When she had greatest Friends, most plentie of Monie to worke with, and thought her well in way to becom the Parson she imagineth of herself, I kept her safe to your Majesty. No Practises could get her out of my Hands, and that toke she and yet doth for the greatest Displeasure that could be done to her. I did not then shew her any Fere or hope more Favour, nor in Word or Deed allowed of her imagined Titles, neither was I in anything more pleasing to her." And he goes on to say that he has ever since behaved in the same way. (The letter is printed in Murdin's Collection, p. 292). Probably the truest view is that taken by Strangvage (Life of Mary, p. 158), who says:—"And that it might be done with a better colour, and the credit of the Earl of Shrewsbury, which was approved and well-known, might not seem to be suspected (for it was not thought good to call in question the reputation of so great a man, which yet they had cracked by secret slanders upon the finding fault of his unreasonable wife), suspicions were laid hold on as if the plot of getting her liberty were begun. * * * Moreover, there were letters shown, as if they had been intercepted, in the which the friends of the Queen complained that all their hopes were quite cut off, if she were but put into the custody of the Puritans. Under this colour she was taken from Shrewsbury, and committed to the custody of Amias Paulet and Drewgh Drury, and that of purpose (as some thinke) that, being driven into desperation, she might be more apt to take abrupt counsels and more easie to be entrapped. For Shrewsbury, in all that 15 yeeres had so providently kept her, that there was no place left of plots for her or against her."

¹⁵ These letters will be found printed in full in the notes to the Biogr. Britann. Article "Davison," as well as a letter from Elizabeth to Poulet, written on the occasion of Mary's removal to Fotheringay (Nov. 1586), and expressing extravagant gratitude to him for his safe custody of the "wicked murtheresse." (A MS. copy of this letter is in the Bodleian Library, Rawl. Misc. 30.) The letter of Walsingham and Davison, hinting at assassination, is said in the Biogr. Britan. to have been first published by Mr. Hearne, who tells us "they were copied by a friend of his in the month of September 1717, from a manuscript folio book containing letters to and from Sir Amias Paulet, when he was the Queene of Scots' Governor at Fotheringay." From a letter of Poulet to Davison (see Chalmers' Life of Queen Mary, vol. i. p. 447), dated Feb. 8, 1586, it

A writer, immediately after Mary's execution, does not hesitate to call him more butcher than gaoler,¹⁶ and says: "Ce Paulet est le plus rude vilain que vous scauriez veoir, et pour cette cause avoit esté choisi expressement comme un Cerberus pour la garder."¹⁷ And Mary herself, writing of her keepers a short time before her death, says of them: "Brief devant hier, Paulet revint avec ce Droury, le plus modeste et gracieux de beaucoup."¹⁸ Burghley, in his Diary, makes no more than one incidental allusion to him:—

"1585, Nov. Mr. Bagot sent to Tutbury Castle to assist Sir Amyas Paulet during his sickness."

Probably Fuller's opinion of his conduct to Mary is the most favourable that can be quoted.¹⁹ At all events his spirited reply to

appears that, though requested to destroy the originals, he took them with him to London. Copies in Lord Oxford's hand are said by Chalmers to be among the Harl. MSS. 6994, Art. 29, 30.

¹⁶ Besides the well-known story of his ransacking her chamber during her absence, and removing all her money and jewels, as well as her papers (see his letter, printed in the Appendix to Robertson), various minor incidents of his behaviour are recorded; among others that, finding one day her chimney on fire, and supposing it to be a concerted signal, he placed her in the antechamber, guarded by four soldiers, whom he commanded to kill her at once, if she made the least movement. See *Martyre de la Reine d'Ecosse* Edinb. 8vo. 1587. p. 363. The story is told also in Freebairn's *Life of Mary*, p. 272.

¹⁷ The anonymous author of *Martyre de la Reine d'Ecosse*, quoted above (p. 362). In another place he calls Poulet "ce miserable podagre Puritain."

¹⁸ *Idein*, p. 391. The letter is dated Nov. 24, 1586. Cf. *Strangvage*, p. 159. "Leicester secretly sent ruffians (as many said) to murder her; but Drury, an honest-minded and upright man, detested the wickedness from his heart, and suffered them not to have any access to her"

¹⁹ "I know the Romanists rail on him as over-strict in his charge, but indeed without cause, for he is no unjust steward who to those under him alloweth all his master's allowance, though the same be but of the scantest proportion. Besides, it is no news for prisoners (especially if accounting their restraint unjust) to find fault with their keepers merely for keeping them. And such who complain of him, if in his place, ought to have done the same themselves." (*Fuller's Worthies*, 4to, Lond. 1811, vol. ii. p. 282.)

Walsingham's letter proves that Elizabeth was mistaken if she thought to find him an utterly unscrupulous instrument of her will.²⁰

The year after he was relieved from his charge at Fotheringhay, he was sworn Chancellor of the Order of the Garter.²¹ He continued in his Captainship of Jersey²² till his death, which took place on September 26th, 1588.²³ By his wife Margaret, daughter and heiress of Anthony Harvey, Esq., of Columb John, Devon, he had issue three sons and three daughters,²⁴ and was succeeded in his

²⁰ Chalmers, "Life of Mary," (2 vols. Lond. 4to, 1818) mentions (vol. i. p. 456) a letter of Poulet to Walsingham, dated Feb. 25, 1586, concerning the distribution of Mary's jewels after her death, and the embalming of her body. This letter he quotes from the State Paper Office, and gives the substance of many other letters of Poulet concerning his charge at Tutbury and Fotheringhay. In the State Paper Office (Domestic Series) are also a few letters which contain incidental mention of Sir Amias, ranging from 1573 (?) to 1589, from which we learn that he possessed the advowsons of Sampford Peverell and South Petherton, in Somersetshire (Oct. 22nd, 1582); that he quarrelled with his neighbours in that county (Jan. 18, 1596); that he was made Privy Councillor at the special instance of the Queen (Sept. 7, 1584); that he signed the Association at Hampton Court on Oct. 19, 1584; and that he held the office of Clerk to the Duchy of Lancaster (May 22, 1587, and Aug. 1589).

²¹ Ashmole's Order of the Garter, p. 521. Burghley, in his Diary (Murdin's Collection) has the following entry:—"1587. Febr. The Chancellorshippe of the Garter, by the death of Amyas Paulett, granted to Mr. Secretary Walsingham." This is an obvious mistake. Poulet succeeded Walsingham (see Ashmole's List, p. 714), and was himself succeeded by Sir John Woolley, Knt., "Secretary for the Latin Tongue." Sir E. Dyer, Knt., succeeded Woolley.

²² It does not, appear, however, that he resided in the island, for, in a letter, dated Oct. 22, 1582, to Walsingham, he says that he has left Somersetshire, to spend the winter in London for his health; but the sickness being there, he shall return to Devon. (St. Pap. Domestic Series.)

²³ The date of his death is determined by the inquisition held at Wells, Jan. 15, 1588, which is given in Collins's Peerage. (Art. Poulet.)

²⁴ Viz., as follows: Hugh (d. in infancy), Anthony, George, Joan (m. Robert Heyden, Esq., of Bowood, Devon), Sarah (m. Sir Francis Vincent of Stoke Dabernon,

office by his second son, Sir Anthony Poulett, father of John, first Lord Poulett.

Of the MS. herein edited, the account given in Macray's Catalogue of Rawl. MSS. A. 331, is as follows: "Codex Chartaceus, in folio, ff. 130. A full account of the volume is given in the Collection of John Blackbourne (a bishop among the non-jurors), prefixed to his

Surrey), and Elizabeth (d. unmarried). He was buried in the church of S. Martin's in the Fields, London; but, on the rebuilding of that church, his body and monument were removed to Hinton. There are several inscriptions on his tomb, in Latin, English, and French; and the initials of his Royal mistress, "E. R.," are also engraved there, over four lines of English verse; but whether at her command or not does not appear. It may be worth while to give the French, which, though not less laudatory, is perhaps more definite than the others:

"Passant arreste, Ici voy L'Honneur D'Angleterre,
 La Foy, La Pieté, La Bonté, La Valeur.
 Bref, Des autres Virtus, Le plus Beau, le meilleur
 Que ce Petit Tombeau Dedans La Terre Enserre.
 Non, Non, Je ne Croy Pas qu'un Si Petit de Terre
 Couvre Tant de Virtus, Ait Esteint Tant D'Honneur,
 Que ce Preux Chevalier, ce Renommé Seigneur
 Avoit acquis en paix, avoit acquis En Guerre.
 Ce n'etoit que Douceur, Savoir, Integrité,
 Prudence et Bon Conseil, Constance et Gravité,
 Dont Ciel honorait ce Cœur, cette ame Belle.
 La Vertu ne meurt point, son los est eternelle.
 Le Tombeau tient ses os; sa Belle Ame est au Ciel,
 La Lovange Icy Bas est Grande et Immortelle."

From Lodge's Illustr. of Brit. History, where is also engraved a portrait from a picture at Hinton. It represents him with a somewhat sour expression, high cheekbones, thin moustache and beard, very large ears, slightly-marked eyebrows, narrow high forehead, nearly aquiline nose, and a long narrow face.

edition of Bacon's²⁵ works, folio, Lond. 1730, i. pp. 24, 35. Eight of the letters are there printed, viz. : one to Nich. Wadham ; four to the Lord Keeper, Sir Nicholas Bacon ; one to the Earl of Leicester ; and two to Sir Francis Walsingham, Secretary of State.²⁶ One letter to Queen Elizabeth, dated 6th August, 1577, is printed in Murdin's Collection of State Papers, folio, Lond. 1759, p. 305. Part of this, occupying from p. 308 to p. 312 in the printed copy, is wanting in this MS.²⁷ Three leaves have also been torn out after fol. 54, two after fol. 80, and part of a letter is wanting before fol. 32." Dr. Blackbourne's account of the volume is this : " The papers from which I have transcribed the foregoing letters seem to be protocols or registers of Sir Amyas Powlet during a considerable part of his embassy in France. They commence May 22, 1577, and conclude on the 10th of January following ; and, considering the great variety of cyphers made use of for the conveyance of them, as the author occasionally informs us, and that the art of decyphering was then in its infancy, we may be very well assured (as they are wrote in the common hand of Q. Elizabeth's days) that they could be no other than Sir Amyas's own copy, or at least that of his Secretary, Mr. Dannet. * * * * Though I have in a manner only selected such letters as make for my purpose, yet I can't forbear saying that I judge the whole would be very

²⁵ The young Francis Bacon was sent abroad under the guardianship of Sir Amias during his Embassy, as was then the fashion with young men of rank.

²⁶ These letters will be found on pages 48, 77, 129, 165, 179, 186, 224, 243, 247 of this volume. Of the last (p. 243) Blackbourne says, "It treats of a subject much canvassed, and lays the scene of the Queen of Scots much deeper than any other intelligence. It likewise gives a specimen of the treachery of the agents of the Queen Mother of France, and accounts for the reason why the Queen of Scots was afterwards committed to the custody of Sir Amyas Powlett, since he seems to have made the first discovery of her practices, and to have been master of the whole secret."

²⁷ See Appendix to Preface.

entertaining if they were published to the world, and I may be indulged a short digression relating to Sir Amyas Powlet (for so his name is constantly wrote wherever it occurs.)”²⁸ To these accounts of the MS. little need be added, except that the more than usually eccentric variations of spelling throughout, the utterly random way in which it is punctuated, and the constant absence of capital letters to proper names, seem, when taken together, to indicate (since the MS. is written in a very neat and careful hand, and with no signs of haste about it) that it is rather a translation from cypher than an original document, unless we may imagine that it was prepared in this shape²⁹ for Mr. Secretary Dannett to translate into cypher, the exigencies of which drove the author, as he himself tells us, into all sorts of violations of grammar.³⁰ No alterations have been made in the orthography of the MS. other than were absolutely necessary to render the text intelligible; capital letters have been supplied, and a few omissions, more or less obvious, have been inserted within brackets.

An Index will be found at the end, containing the names of those to whom the letters are addressed. Of these, concerning Messrs. Argall, Beton, Brounkar, Drake, Heneage, Horsey, Speake, Tomson, and Wilkes, the Editor has been able to discover little or nothing.

Sir Arthur Basset was a gentleman of some note in Devonshire (p. 167). He seems to have held lands near Barnstaple, and various instructions are extant addressed to him for putting Devonshire in a state of defence, transporting soldiers to Ireland, and fitting out a fleet of discovery for the Antarctic Seas.

Mr. Robert Beale was Clerk of the Council, and as such appears in many papers of the period. In April, 1587, he made suit to the

²⁸ This, however, is not correct. See note 1.

²⁹ The volume, however, is not in Sir Amias's handwriting.

³⁰ See page 55. Other mention is made of his use of cypher on pages 31, 108, 181.

Queen for a grant of £60 a year for thirty or forty years, in consideration of poverty and services. On the 9th of May in that year he had resigned his office, and was alive in 1590.

Sir Jerome Bowes' name appears in some unimportant papers of the period. A grant of Crown lands of the value of £100 a year was made him on June 16, 1582.

Sir John Clifton is styled by Poulet his brother (p. 23), as is also Nicholas Wadham, the celebrated founder of Wadham College, and Poulet's neighbour at Merifield (p. 48). The language used in both cases seems to forbid the supposition that they were not more nearly connected than by god-parents, or as county neighbours and friends. The Editor has not, however, been able to trace any connection between either family, unless Poulet's grandmother (Lora, daughter of William Kellaway, of Rockborne, Hants) was related to Joan Kellaway, Wadham's stepmother. Sir John Clifton was Sheriff for Somerset in 28 Eliz., and appears also to have been Sheriff for Devon four years previously.³¹

Dr. Valentine Dale, M.P., a well-known jurist, was Judge of the High Court of Admiralty in 1584. He succeeded Sir Amias Poulet in the French Embassy, and died in November, 1589.

Sir Edward Dyer is probably the Sir Edward Dyer who was the intimate friend of Sir Philip Sidney, Fulke Greville, and Edmund Spenser, and of whose friendship the Huguenot Languet wrote that it was "like a gem added to his treasures."³² He was a gentleman of noble family in Devonshire or Somersetshire, or both, and succeeded Poulet's successor as Chancellor of the Order of the Garter.³³

Sir Francis Knollys, or Knowles, Knight of the Garter,³⁴ was a

³¹ Fuller's Worthies of Somerset and Devon.

³² Langueti Epistolæ, page 215, quoted in Fox Bourne's Memoir of Sir Philip Sidney, p. 218.

³³ See note 21.

³⁴ See Ashmole's Order of the Garter, p. 716.

prominent leader of the strict Puritan party in the House of Commons, and a supporter of the Penal Bill of 1563.³⁵ He seems to have been strangely constant in attendance upon a Court which must have been distasteful to him, wherein, however, he held the office of Vice-Chamberlain; but probably he was retained there by the influence of his great friend, Walsingham. His daughter Lettice, Countess of Essex, was privately married, in his presence, to Leicester in 1578, and seven years later his son Francis was Rear-Admiral in Drake's great New World Expedition.

Sir Thomas Leighton was Poulet's colleague, being Governor of the Island of Guernsey. He was a Puritan of a very decided kind, and is bitterly accused of having introduced the Presbyterianism of the Huguenot refugees into his island by false representations to Queen Elizabeth. He seems afterwards to have been Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, where a Sir Thomas Leighton is mentioned a few years later actively engaged in the performance of his duties.

Mr. Edward Tremayne, of Colocumb, was also an active officer in the West of England. He is constantly mentioned in conjunction with Sir Francis Drake; of the treasure brought home by whom in 1580 he was appointed custodian. In that year he is found complaining that age and infirmities unfit him for the performance of his duties.

Dr. Thomas Wilson, Dean of Durham and Secretary of State, though mixed up with all the domestic politics of his time, is perhaps best known as the author of "The Arte of Rhetorique," described as "almost the first piece of criticism which our language contains"³⁶—a work which there is some reason to suppose was the origin of Sir Philip Sidney's well-known "Defence of Poesie."

The rest of Poulet's correspondents are too well known to need special mention.

³⁵ Froude's Hist. of the Reign of Elizabeth, i. 490.

³⁶ Fox Bourne's Memoir of Sir Philip Sidney, pp. 231, 383.

APPENDIX TO PREFACE.

It has been thought well to insert here, from Murdin's Collection of State Papers (fol. Lond. 1759), pp. 308-11), the portion of the letter to Queen Elizabeth which is missing on p. 84 of this volume.

. . . . things, and so illused that it was not to be excused; I told hym that he had to consider herein his own profit and commodyte, who receaved great benefit by their entercourse. I concluded that this alteration conteyned in itself small demonstration of that good amyte which was required by his Ambassador to contineu and increase betweene these two Crownes, and therefore prayed his Majesty to consider of it according to equity; and having made a short note of these griefs, and holding the same in my hand, he required me to deliver it unto hym, and promised to take such order therein as should appertaine to reason and justice. Then I declared to the King that I was come to a conclusion, being commanded by your Majesty to say playnly unto him, that onleast La Roche was stayed from proceeding in his preparations, and your subjects both better satisfied for the spoyles which they have heretofore sustained, as also provision made out of hand that they may not hereafter be spoyled as they have been, your Majesty shall be forced contrarie to your own disposition to resort to such remedies as you would be loth to put into execution, otherwise than constrained by necessitie. The King answered that, touching the merchants, he would not fayle to take the best order he could, having already given streight charge to La Roche to attempt nothing against your Majesty, and had received his promise for it. He said it was a thing usual to all princes to lycens their subjects to go upon the seas upon reasonable considerations, and therefore her Majesty might not take his going out in ill part. I replyed, that your Majesty could not be satisfied with this answer, and that you had been dewly and credably informed of his synister intents against you, and therefore did look that the King should so consider of it as your Majesty might stand assured. What can I do more,

sayeth the King, than to require his promise, and if he break it to punish hym at his return, which I shall not fayle to do. I told him La Roche was his subject, and was not yet departed as I was informed, and therefore it were easy for hym to brydle hym in such sort as your Majesty might be well satisfied. He shall, quoth I, go to the seas; he shall invade the countries of my Sovereigne, and be punished for it when he returneth, as though the punishment of twenty La Roches could recompence the troubling of the state and kingdom of my mystres. He sayd, he could not let his subjects to go to the seas, and, as he thought, some shippes were departed already. I answered that I trusted he was assured these shippes would attempt nothing against your Majesty. Nay, sayeth the King, I am not assured that they are departed, but if my good sister, your mistress, deal playnlie and friendlie with me, she may be assured that my subjects will do her no displeasure. And this was all I could get of hym.

Then, taking my leave of the King, I was conveyed to Queen-Mother's chamber, where, before I entered, Monsieur Gondye asked me if I would not refresh myself after this long talk before my next audience; wherein his meaning was, that the King might have leasure to ympart unto his mother the conference betweene hym and me. I told hym that I was ready when it pleased the Quene, and so entered into her chamber, where I attended her comynge, who brought the young Quene with her. There I declared to Quene-Mother that, having received commandment from her Majesty to signifie some matters of importance to the King her son, I wolde not fayle, considering the place she holdeth, to acquainte her with the same, and the rather because the good or bad handling of these causes might brede good or ill to these two Realms, and so ymparted unto her all that I had in commandement to say to the King; and when I had ended, she answered that your Majesty could not be ignorant of her good affection towards you; that, for confirmation thereof, she had profered unto you all her sons, her only jewels in this world; that it had pleased your Highness to do her that honour to call her by the name of mother; and that, therefore, she would not fayle, after her accustomed fashion, to deal plainlie with me, your Ambassador, and did not doubt but that your Majesty would take it in good part. The affection and dewtie, sayd she, which she oweth to the King her son, did bind her to do her best endeavour to conserve his estate, which to effectuate she hath not thought anie other meane more necessarie than to conserve these two Realms in good peace and perfect amyte, as a thing honourable and profitable for them both. The King her son was no less affected to this union, and had not fayled from time to time to do the offices of a brother and good

neighbour; that his realm being now in combustion, he trusted to find you of like affection towards hym; that, instede thereof, he received nothing but fair words and unkynde deedes; that it was dangerous for princes to comfort and cherish rebells; that, the like occasion happening in England, your Majesty would not like that the King her son should support your bad subjects against you; that the Prince of Condé's letters had bene intercepted; that in these letters he had written to his friends, that your Majesty required hym to come into England, and that you would provyde hym of men and money; that the rebells of this realm were received and cherished in England; that, as the King her son desired nothing more than to continew in good amyte with you, so he was descended of a house that cared little for their enemies; that his quarrel was just; that God would defend hym; that, by the Treatie of Peace betwixt your Majestie and hym, you were bound to ayde hym against his rebells if he did require it; that he neded no help to deal with them, and could do well enough, if they were not otherwise assisted; that he desired nothing but the obedience dew to a King and Sovereign; that she wished your Majesty to consider of these things in honour and equity; and, finallie, that she thought she might be bold to utter her mind franklie to your Highnes. I answered that I thanked her Majesty most humbly that it had pleased her to deal thus playnlie, and that I did not doubt but that the same would be agreeable to your Majesty; and although I had no commission to reply, yet I besought her to give me leave to say somewhat as of myself. First, I trusted she would confess that your Majesty had forborne to do manie things during this tyme of the civill warrs in France, which your Majesty might have done, and which anie other neighbour in your place would have done; and if there were nothing else, I thought this worthy of some thanks. Secondly, I prayed her to remember that your Majesty, as one that wished well to the King her son and his Crowne, had at manie other tymes, and now lastlie at Blois, exhorted hym with many invincible arguments to make peace with his subjects, a sufficient testimonie that you took small pleasure in his troubles. And thirdly, I told her that those she called rebells consisted of two parts, whereof the one part was in arms, the other was a multitude of poor and simple people which, to enjoy liberty of conscience and exercise of religion, were content to leave their lyvings and commodytes, and were repaired, some into England, some into other places, where they lived in great miserie and poverty. I sayd, she ought not to find it strange if your Majesty, a Christian Princess, endued with Christian charity, had received some of this latter sort into your realm, especially

being such as agreed with your Majesty in religion. Touching the other sort, whatsoever the Prince of Condé, or any other, had sayd or written, I told her the effect did well show that the King her son and she had received nothing from you but offices worthy of good friendship between you. I sayd, if you would give credit to FitzMorris' letters, the quarrel were now open betwene you. These things, sayeth she, are not so easilie excused. Do you not remember what the Quene your mistres did at Newhaven? I answered that I remembred well the tyme, but was ignorant of the occasions, which I doubted not were verie sufficient. And now lately, saythe she, Cazimir hath told me that he had 50,000 crownes of your Quene, and it is so set down in the Treatie between us. Madam, quoth I, I must say, as I have sayd, that FitzMorris hath sayd and written as hath bene most for his advantage. Why then, sayth she, doth the Quene foster and nourish the King my son's subjects? Whie doth the King your son, quoth I, receive such of our nation as pretend to come hither for the cause of religion? I know none such here, sayeth she. I know them, quoth I, and know divers of them to be gentlemen and of good calling. Do you know, saythe she, that they have secret access to the King, as La Personne had to the Quene your mistres? Madam, quoth I, I can say little in this matter; but you may not find it strange if a gentleman of quality and calling, passing thorow the realm, hath had access to her Majesty. I must be playne with you, Monsieur L'Embassadeur, sayth she, we have had nothing but words these fifteen years; we would be glad now to receive some dedes. Our rebels are aided openlie or comforted secretly, which was the manner of Lewis the XIth.; your mistres would not be content to receive such offices from us. If she mean playnlie and friendlie towards my son, she will require and counsell such as bear arms against hym to submit themselves unto hym, and in cause of refuse will tell them playnlie she will assist my son against them. And I pray you, sayth she, signifie thus much to the Quene your mistres from me. Madam, quoth I, I will not fayle to make trew and just report of all your speeches as neere as I may. And lyke as you look for great offices from the Quene my mistres, so it may please you to consider of such things as I have proposed unto you in her Majesty's behalf, touching FitzMorris, La Roche, and the English merchants. Wherein, because there passed no other speech in effect than such as hath bene alreadie recited in my discourse with the King, I will not trouble your Majesty with new repetitions. And yet the truthe is, I debated all these points at greater length with Quene-Mother than with the King. Onlie this was added, that Quene-Mother was content to give her word, and that I should assure your

Majesty from her that neither the shippes already set forth, if such were, neither La Roche, should attempt anie thing to your Majesty's prejudice, if the King her son received no other offices from you than such as were worthie of his good sister and friend. And in the end of our conference, touching our English merchants, she said that their complaints should be considered, not for anie other respect but because justice and equity did so require it. I will not presume to make anie interpretation of these words, but in my simple opinion her meaning was to move me to think that the consideration of the merchants did not procede of anie fear that was conceived of anie thing your Majesty could do; and, if I be not deceived, this interpretation is no less favourable than trewe. Leaving the consideration of the premises to your Majesty, I will only be so bold most humbly to pray you to consider that all your doings touching the French are registred and layed up against a day, and that nothing is forgotten, no, not things done before the last treatie. I may not forget to advertise your Majesty that Quene-Mother, in the end of our speech, told me merylie that I found these two realms in peace and amyte at my comyng hither, and if I did not leave them so at my departure she would lay the fawte on me. Indede no subject in England hath greater cause to wish the continuance of amyte between England and France than I in respect of the little charge I have under your Majesty of the Isle of Jersey, which I beleive verilie will be the first thing that will be attempted. But I had rather twenty Jerseys were so many fish-pooles than that your Majesty's person, crown, and state should be endangered by too much security. When I had ended the premises and was now ready to despatch my messenger, attending only the King's answer touching the merchants' causes, and to that purpose had sent that morning to Monsieur Pynart to know the King's pleasure touching those particularities, ymmediately after dinner Monsieur Gondy comyth unto me from Quene-Mother to require me to come unto her, saying that she had some matter of importance to say unto me. I repaired forthwith to the Court, when Quene-Mother, assysted with the French Quene, declared unto me that she desired nothing more than the continuance of good and perfect amite between the King her son and your Majesty; that she had employed all her means from tyme to tyme to that end; that her son was likewise affected; that she trusted to have found the like disposition on your part; that she was now advertised of four of your Majesty's shippes, furnished with 1,200 sowdiers, gone to Rochel; of three others of your shippes, accompanied with other small barks, either gone already to the seas, or ready to be gone; and finally of

COPY-BOOK
OF
SIR AMIAS POULET'S LETTERS.

[RAWL. A. 331.]

[On the Fly leaf.]

REGISTER, OR
COPY-BOOK OF SIR AMYAS PAWLET'S LETTERS
DURING HIS EMBASSY IN FRANCE
in 1577.

This was made some use of by Mr. Blackburne in his collections relating to L^d. Bacon.

Given by me to Dr. Rawlinson ; but comeng to his Brother's hands he knew not how, he desired me to restore it, which I did at the D^{rs}. return from abroad, 1726.

J. LOCKER.

It was my Grandfather's book.

COPY-BOOK

OF

SIR AMIAS POULET'S LETTERS.

TO THE QUEENES MA^{TIE}.

Yt may please your Ma^{tie} to be aduertised that Maryon, secretary Maye, 1577. to Danville, arryved at the courte the xvjth of this presente, from whome I haue ben aduertised that Danvill ys retiered from the assocation of the Protestants, that their jalousie and suspicion haue forced him so to doe, that they woulde not alowe him for their Gouvernor, that they had the partyculer councellor which controwled his orders and resolucions, that he had capitulated with the K: but hath submitted him self absolutely without condicion, and yet he dothe not doubt but that the K: will haue regarde to his honor and sewerty; that if the K: leaue him in his Gouverment he will not fayle to doe him all faythfull servyce; that Montepellier, Nysmes, Aigues-mortes, Ozais, Castres and Montauban holde for the Protestants; that it is intended to destroy the harvest of corne and grasse belonging to these townes, and thereby to reduce them to extreme necessitie; that their is greate dearth in Languedocq already; that Danvyll wyll neuer forgett the greate fauor and frindshipp which your Highnes hath allwaies borne to his house, and that he will not

fayle to send shorttelie a messenger of purpose to enforme your
 Ma^{tie} att length of his proceedings. Yt is not to be doubted but that
 the D: of Savoye hath capitulated sufficiently for Danvill, and per-
 chaunce more for his owne profitt and sewerty of his owne estate
 then for the comodite or saftie of Danvill in lyfe or livinge. Belle-
 garde hath ben a great traviler in this practice, and is now in Lan-
 guedocq with Danvill and Joyeuse. The regiment of Grillon and the
 one halfe of the companies which were leed by Martinenque being
 now devided, amounting in the whole to two thowsande men or their
 abouts, are sent into Languedoc. Danvill desierethe x canones for
 the better service of the Kinge, and, as I am informed by one of that
 office, order is taken to send them vnto hym. Those of Yssoire in
 Auvergne loke daylie for the sege, haveing destroyed all the villages
 nere aboute them thereby to annoy the enemy as much as they maie.
 Some thinke that they are resolute to abyd all extremities, being
 much comforted by the late godd seruices of their neighbours of
 Ambert, whoe after two assaults are deliuerd of their enemies. Yt
 is saide that the third part of Auvergne holdyth for those of the
 Religion, and that they haue sixe townes att their devotion, and yet
 the Papistes there are so incensed against the Protistaunts as besydes
 their owne servise they contribute verie depely to the mayntenance
 of this warre. Monsieur departed from the Court towards Yssoire
 the xxi of this present.

Maye 26.
 1577.

Q: Mother the xijth of this presente honored the victorie of
 Monsieur in the recoverie of La Charité with a very solempne and
 sumptuous Bankett, yn the which the King, Monsieur and all the
 Princes, and other greate estates, were servid with ladies appereyld
 by two and tow yn sondrie colours, madame de Rhetz representing
 the Great Master, and fower other ladies supplying the places of the
 fower Maistres d' hostel with whyt staues in their handes. This
 bankett was adorned with all sort of musike and other delighes,
 the musicions being allso apparelled in sylke after the best fasshion.
 Yt was expected that Monsieur shoulde haue departed towards

Yssoire the next daye after their feast, but yt semeth that this voyage dependeth uppon the resolucion of Bussy d'Amboyse, whoe in all his awnsweres and messeuges hath professed to doe nothinge but for the K's: servyce, althoughe his actions purport some other matter; he is sayed of Angiers and of the Pont de Sey, and hath att the least 4000 sowdyours at his comaundement. He troubleth all the court, he troubleth all their counsell and resolucions. Now lately Villeroy and De Maundes Chauncellor to Monsieur haue ben sent vnto him to receaue his fynall awnswere, and are departed from him as wise as when they cam to him. He sayeth he is the King's faythful seruante, that the Kynge may dispose of him at his pleasure, that yf he were not deseasyd he woulde not fayle to resorte to the K:, and that he will send parte of his forces into Auvergne to Monsieur. This is all they can gett of him, and here uppon there are many opinions, and fewe can tell what this matter meaneth, and no doubt it is a mistery of greate secrecye. The sultelties and trecheries of Frawnce are so depe as it is a very hard or rather vnpossible for a straunger to fynd the bottom.

Som thinke that Bussye hath secrett intellegence with the K: to betraye those of Bretaine, others that he is lygued with the Protestants, the third that he is directed by [Monsieur?], the last that he standeth for himself as a male content. And lyke as this last opinion hath lest apparaunce yn reason and iudgment, so yt may seme that the first doth now begine to loose his credit, La Charyté being rendered to the K: and the King haveing armyes of the other syde of the ryuer of Loyre, so as their is no hope that the Bryttons maye be brought hereafter to the State, being now vtterly vnable yf they woulde to joyne with their frindes yn Guyen yf they haue anie there. The seconde conceipt is coldly receiued, and for my parte I dare not wryght what I thinke of the third. Yt is ynouge that your Ma^{tie} knoweth the great Estates of this Courte, their humors and dispositions. Fewe seeke after peace, and some do well knowe

that these troubles and deuisions are the onlie staye and pillar of their greatnes.

The yonge Lansacq keepeth the seas before Rochell with x or jix shippes, and some galyes are in rigging at Nantes to come lykewyse thether.

Twoe companies which wear at Marens and there abouts, vppon the approching of the Duke of Mayne retyered for their sewerty to Rochell; where, because they belongyd to the Prince of Condé, those of the Towne, doubting leaste the Prince by theire helpe should be able to comaunde within the Towne, would not recaue them.

Amonge other gallyes sent with treasure out of Spaine to Napla yt is sayde that one galley in the which were 150000 crownes.

Yt is wrighten out of Germanie, that the Tartaryans have ynvadid Polonia, of late, with greate troopes of horsmen, and having destroyed a great parte of the cuntrye, retorned to their owne dominions before the Enymie could be prepared for his defence. I am credibly aduertised that the K: of Spaine maketh great preparations by sea, and some of good iudgment are of opinion that it is for Ireland, because they canne not consider that he hath anie other necessarie seruice for his shippes att this tyme. The Portugall maketh lyke preparacions, and it is sayd that they joyne in one enterprise.

A Scotte tyllith me that the Ambassador of Scotlande will not retorne from the Bathes in Lorraine callyd the Plomberies vntill he haue spoken with Don Jhon. The twoe Hameltones cam from Don Jhon to the Duke of Guyse when he was yet before La Charité, and are now sayd to be gone into Spaine. Yt maye be feared least these Spannishe practizes tend to the trouble of yo^r Ma^{tie} and your state, and the lyke is to be conceiued of the preparations made by La Roche yn Bretain, whereof I haue given aduertisment before this tyme, and of late haue dispatched one of my seruants of honest credyt and good experience to learne the certayntie of these doings, and

because the tyme appointed for his retorne is expired long sithence, I feare least he be slayne or imprisoned.

I may be bould to affirme that England had neuer fewer frinds in the French court then at this presente, where none that haue made profession of Religion dare once shew their faces, so as I am driven to seeke acquaintance with the Papistes, having allso ben lodged farre from the courte contynvally sythence my coming into France, and therefore yt may please your Ma^{tie} to holde me excusyd althoughe my service be not such or so effectuell as your Highnes expectyth, wherein their shalbe no wante of my fidelytie and dilligence, as knoweth the Allmightie, whoe allwayes preserue your most excellent Ma^{ty} in all honor and prosperitie. . . . From Towers, the xxvith of Maye.

TO M^R WALSINGHAM.

I thinke my self much beholding vnto your Honor that it hath pleased you to retorne my servant Jhon Tupper vnto me at this tyme, whose presence I desyered very much as well for the quieting of my mynde as for her Ma^{ty} service. I had sent for my resayvor in the Isle of Jersay to com hether vnto me to conferre with him in matters touching his chardg there; and vppon his arryvall at Bloyes, consideringe that he had the French tonge naturally, being native of Jersay, and had ben trayned from his infancie in the coast of Bretayne in marchandise, and knowinge his sufficientie otherwise, I thought good to send him into Bretayne to learne the certayntie of the doings of La Roche and of his preparacions by sea. The tyme appointed for his retorne ys expired so long sithence, as I thinke assueredly that he is imprisoned yf he be not slayne, and yet I doe not se how he can be longe a prisoner, because he had neither lettres or any other wryting aboute hym, and do thinke rather that he is fallen into the handes of the knavishe soudoyours of Bussy's companie, and that his good gelding and the money in

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his pursse have been the cause of his distruction. I am sory her Ma^r service is hindered by the loss of so good a seruant, of whom I made singuler accompte for his honestie, faythfullnes and discretion, and in dede do not know howe to supplie his place in the charge which he had vnder me, wherein none canne doe good seruice but such as besydes the language are acquainted with the customes of the Isle, which breedyth very few that are trustie and faithfull, and do impute the honestie of this man altogether to his educacion from his infancie in Englande and on the cost of France in trade of marchandise. Thus you see how I speake to quiet my self in bewayling my displeasure to my good frynde. And now I will do as our archers in England, who when they have lost one arrow wyll shoote an other the same waye in hope to fynd both. I am now vppon the pointe to dispatch Jhon Tupper into those parts. God send him good speede !

I must craue your Honor's fauor towards me in the allowance of this byll inclosed, and in this behalfe yt may please you to consider that sythence my coming from Paris I haue ben allwayes lodged seauen and tenne leagues from the courte, my olde acquaintance of the Religion being dispersed abroad, so as now my best fryndes are hired Papistes. I cannot thanke your Honor ynough for the aduertisments I receaue from you, and in dede they are not only comfortable, but do allso serue me to great purpose. Yt is said that the dardth of corne is alreadie great in Rochell. I am glad to here that you are retorned agayne to the court, where God long preserue you in good health. From Towrs, &c.

Yt hath not ben for want of good tryall that I haue not recomended Donnet vnto you before this tyme, whome suerly I fynde verie honest, dilligent and faythfull, and would be very glade if this recomendacion could add somewhat to your good opinion of him, and now I thanke yo^r Honor most hartely for hym. Yt may please your Honor to acquainte my L: of Sussex with my aduertisments, because I haue not written to his Lordship, neither haue I

wrytten of any particularities to my L: of Lecister or to my L: Treasurer. You shall recaiue inclosed herein the copie of my lettres sent by this bearer to my seruante Rowe to be conuayed to S^r Jhon Clyfton. Gode send vs a yoke felowe that feareth God ! I maye not forgett to tell you that Knevitt hath reported here that M^r Hatton hath the reversion of my office of the Captaineshippe of Jersaye, which if it be true I must confesse that the Quene doth me no wronge, but I would thinke more credit yf this had ben done at some other tyme than during my seruice here. Yt maye please your Honor to thinke of it, and to learne the truth in some sortt.

TO MY L: OF LECISTER.

My very good L: I have thought good to aduertise her Ma^{tie}. by my lettres of the occurrences of these parts, not doubtinge but that the same wilbe imparted vnto your L: and therefore do thinke it neadlesse to troble you with my farther recytall of our doings here, which are not so prosperous for the poore Protestants as were to be wyshed, and I pray God this harme reach not into our contrey, being not to be doubted but that it is so intended by our neyghbours on euery syed. The revolting Danuyll is in his owne person a matter of great importaunce; but it maye be feared least yonger men caryed away with sinister counsell will followe the example of this olde courtier, who hath ben a partie with the Papistes in many treacheries, and therefore coulde not be ignorant what credytt was to be given to their fayer promises. God divert their harts and myndes to his honor, and to the saftie and quiett of his poore afflicted Church ! I have no hope to place your Lordship's seruante Battye with anie noble man duringe these troubles, being all disperced abroad and keepe no houses. I am sory to see him loose his tyme. I have thought good to send him to Parris, where he shalbe placed with a very good workeman, and no doubt shall doe more good theare one whole yeare.

Maye 26,
1577.

At my retorne to Paris I will bestowe him with some noble man. And thus leaving to troble you any further, I comitt your good L: to the mercyfull protection of the Almightye. Tours, &c.

TO MY L: TREASURER.

Maye 26.
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My verie good L: Being aduertised that your Lordship followeth the court, or rather that the courte foloweth your Lordship to your house, att Tybalds, I thinke it needelesse to trouble you with the occurments of these parts, which I haue imparted to her Ma^{tie} att good leangth by my lettres sent by this bearer, and do not doubt but that the same shalbe comunicatted vnto your Lordship. The Papists here increase in corage euery daye, and Religion is contemned as a thinge of no price. Vntyll now of late it had ben possible to haue founde in the court some one good man that would be content to talke of religion. But now their is no place in the court for anye affected after this sorte, yea they chose rather to make their aboade in anie other place then theire. The accompt is made that those of the Religion, destitute of all forreyne succour, are brought to such extremities as of necessity they must bow or brake, and that it is a worke of some monethes to establish the Pope's kingdom thoroughe out all Fraunce. But God was yesterdaye, ys this daie, and wilbe to morrow, and his arme is not shortened. He will take pitie of the poor Protestants of this Realme eyther for their owne sakes, or perchance for our sake, because he knoweth that our parte lieth in it. God grant vs grace to flye to his mercy with hartie repentaunce! Yt may please your good L: to extend your accustomed goodnes towards me in the allowance of a byll of some forraine expences which I haue sent heare withall to M^r Secretary, wherein I trust your L: hath this opinion of me that I stand vppon my conscience in these things, and indead would be sory to liue so longe to steale the Quenes mony by subtle devises. This bearer is acquainted with some parte of my deframents; of whome I will saye the less vnto your Lordship,

because I knowe him to be for his owne sake sufficiently recomended vnto you, but if my recomendacion could add anie thinge to your Lordship's good opinion of him, I woulde not fayle to vse all the good wordes I could devise, because I thinke him verie worthey of your Lordship's favor, as well for his honesty and fidelitie as for his discretion and other good parts that are in him. And thus resting att your Lordship's comaundement, I comitt you to the tuicion of the Allmightie, whoe allwayes preserue your good Lordship. From Towrs, &c.

TO THE EARLE OF WARRWICKE.

My verie good L: Yt were a pleasure if being desiorous to wright to your Lordship I were provided of such matter as I knewe your Lordship woulde be gladd to haue; but wyked Tyme yeldeth nothing but miseries to his sworne enimies. I write rather as things are taken here att this presente then as they are indead; neither do I thinke the cause of relygion in this cuntrey to be very desperate, althoughe the Papists do promyse them selves to se their hollie ffatheres kingdome established thorough out all the parts of France verie shortely. But God which syttyth in the heauen shall laughe them to scorne. Dampville is revolted from the Protestants, and hath made his peace with the Kinge, and hath deliuered into his hands all that he canne althoughe not so much as he woulde. The best townes vnder his gouernment hold yet for the Protestants, as Montpellier, Nysmes, Aiguesmortes, Castres, Ozais, and Montauban, which are townes of very good importaunce, and will not be easalie recoueryd. Monsieur departed from the Court the xxith of this presente towards Yssorie yn Auuergne, where he trusteth to finde as good intertainment as before La Charyté. The accompte is made that this towne shalbe renderyd in shorte tyme, and then this armie shall ioyne with the D. of Mayne to doe some noble exploite yn Guyenne, where nothing is done of late that I canne learne worthey

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of the wrightinge, savinge that the yonge Lansacq is saide to haue taken the Isle of [Olerey?] and to keepe the seas before Rochell with x or xii shippes. Bussy d'Amboyse keepeth Angiers and Le Pont de Sey, and is accompanied with three or fouer thowsande men. What he will do att the last I canne not tell, but he hath done much hurte in the losse of two companies of footemen which haue ben defeated; so as, howsoeuer this matter maye end in sporte at the last, there haue ben doings in good earnest of both sydes. I cannott here what is become of the D: of Montpensier or if he be yet ioyned with the Kinge of Navarre, but I thincke this treatie of peace will come to nothings; the one syde is growen in suche courage as it will not proffer anie resonable condicions, the other syde is so well acquainted with the Frenche promises as it doubtethe to accept any condicion at all. Thus I leave to trouble your Lordship, comittinge you to the proteccion of the Allmightie. From Toures &c.

Postescripte.

I have harde that your Lordship hath had an ill opinion of Aiedelye Donnet now servinge vnder me in the place of a secretarie. And therefore, althoughe I have no occasion to trowble your Lordship with anie sewte in his behalf, yet I would be glad yf my recomendacions would any thinge to your Lordship's good opinion of him, being no doubte worthey of your Lordship's fauor, and for my part must saye of him by good prooffe, that he is honest, diligent and faythfull.

TO MR EDWARDE DYER.

My good M^r Dyer: Yt is not that I ame forgettfull of you that the booke which you desyer hath not ben sent vnto you long before this tyme, but the olde edicion was clearly spent, and their was hope that the new edicion would be enryched with some new additions; having wryten to this bearer remayninge then at Parris to have sent one of this new sorte vnto you longe before this tyme, who canne best informe you what hath ben the cause that you haue him no

soner. Yf you had occasion to employe me in greater matters you should fynde my good will readie to performe the dewtie of a lovinge countreyman and verie good freind. I thanke you moste hartelie for your advertysments of the state of thinges in your parts, and would be glade to acqinte you with the occurrents of this countrie, but they are not worthie of the writinge, where all thinges goe againste the heare. Dampville hathe made his peace with the Kinge, and is nowe readie to beare armes againste the Protestants. Monsieur trusteth to be as happie before Yssorie as he hath ben before La Charitie. The K: of Navarre and the Prince of Condie keepe their townes, the D: of Mayne beinge the stronger in the feild, and after the recoverie of Issorie no doubt some great exploite wilbe attempted by these two armies. Many great townes holde in Languedocq for the Protestants, and will not be easylie reduced to the Kinges obedience, yf for no other cause than for the great hattred which they have conceiued against Danville. God only knoweth the end of these things. But in this meane tyme this Realme enduerith vnspeakeable miseries. And herein we se the suer and substantiall builledinge of this kingdom, that after the calamities of so many years dothe not yeald to vtter ruine. I leave to trouble you anie further, and with my most harty comendacions comitt you to the mercyfull tuicion of the Allmightie. From Towres, the &c.

To M^R HATTON.

I am not ignorante that the entercourse of wrighting is vsuall betwene good and knowne frindes, and is no lesse comfortable then necesarrie even amongst those that haue obtayned the highest degre of frindeshippe; but allthough I confesse gladly that I haue hadd good experience of your good affection towards me, and haue ben ready to acknowledge it to the vttermost of my lyttle power, yet I haue not enteryd into any familiaritie of wrighting, and suerly of my naturall disposicion I am as slowe as anie other to thrust my

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self into [any] mannes bosome, or to presome further of the frindshippe of my good freindes then were convenient. Yt may therfore seme strayne vnto you what maye moue me to trouble you with my lettres at this present, which I coulde not with honestie refuse, being requested by one that hath serued my ffather and my ladye my mother in lawe manie years, and deuringe v or vi yeares in the rome of Stewarde of their house, and is now desierous to serue you, being perswaded by his freindes that my good worde towardes you may stande him in steade, whereof I would be as gladde as anie frinde he hath, and would thinke my self much bounde vnto you yf it would please you to accepte the better of him for my recomendacions. He is honest, diligent, and discreet, and I am perswaded that you woulde not myslike his seruice. I leaue him to your good consideracion. Touchinge the state of thinges here, Danuill is revolted from the Protestants, and is ready to beare armes against them.

[Monsieur] ys before Yssoire in Auvergne, where he trusteth to haue no worse speede than before La Charité. What is done betwen the K: of Nauare and the D. of Montpensier is not yet knowne. Bussy d'Amboyse keepeth Angiers and Le Ponte de Sey, and hath greate companies of footemen in the feilde, but it is not very certayne what part he taketh. And thus, beinge readie to do you anie pleasure or seruice that may lye in my litle power, I comitt you, good Mr. Hatton, to the tuicion of the Allmightie. From Towres, the &c.

TO M^R WYLKES.

I will reserue my great thanks vntyll I shalbe so happie as to see you in Englande, and in the meane tyme shall praye you to accepte these hartie thanks by these fewe lynes, and to thinke me your debtor to doe anie thinge for you that becometh a good frinde. Your aduertisements are not onlie pleasant but allso necessarie, and stand me in great stead. I would you could employe me in some

thinge wherein I might do you the like pleasure. I knowe it to be needelesse to trouble you with the occurrents of these partes because my aduertisments to her Ma^{ty} cannott be vnknowne vnto you. Dampville ys revolted. Monsieur ys before Yssoire in Auuergne; the Duke of Mayne in the parts about Rochell with x or xii shippes; what Montpensier doth in his treatie with the King of Navarre I doe not yet know, and I know as lyttle what will become of Bussy d'Amboyse, who keepeth Angiers and Le Pont de Sey with great forces. I leaue to trouble you anie farther, and wishing vnto you as to my self I comitt you to the protection of the Allmightie. From Towres, the &c.

TO SR GEORGE SPEAKE.

Good Sr George, Allthoughe I am devided from you by so manie seas and landes, yet I cannot forgett to thinke often of my countrey and my good countrey men, in which nomber I accounte of you as one of the best assured, and would be no nygard of my lettres yf I did not thinke that they would losse their welcome in their longe carryage. I am glad att my harte, when I heare that you and your neyghbours do well, that you liue nearely and frindlye together, and that all thinges passe quietly amongst you. God longe preserue you in peace and quietnes, if it be his good pleasure, and deliuer you and your contrey from the myseries and calamities of this poore realme, which are such and so great as a cristian enymie shalbe movid to haue pittie of them; and many do thinke the same haue not growne of anie one cause more then of the particular quarrells of some great personages, which often tymes haue their begening of nothing, and for nothings, being neglected as thinges of nothings, growe afterwarde to be somwhatt and many tymes ireconcylable. You woulde thinke that the oppressions which this Realme hath enduirde within these fower monethes were inoughe to destroye a mightie kingdome. One armye in Poictou and Guyenn, the other before La Charité, the third in the borders for

doubte of the Reistres, Bussy d'Amboise in Aniou with great companies. I speake nothinge of those of the Religion, who are forcyd by necessitye to comitt spoyle daylye; *le bon homme* is eaten to the bone, and is manye tymes beaten, hurt, and kylled because he will not geue that which he hath not. Allthoughe La Charyté be yelded to Monsieur by composition, yet the armie is not dissolved, which is now employed in Auvergne at the seige of Yssorie vnder the conduct of Monsieur, who hopeth to finde them no lesse conformable then those of La Charyté. Danuyll is reconsyled to the Kinge, and promiseth to do great thinges against the Protestants. This is the vnconstancye of this tyme and of this nation. A new armie is now in preparing in Languedocq, where no doubt Dampville shall find a bloody victorie yf for no other cause then for the hatred which the Protestants haue conceyued against him, who are yet of great strength there and are not easely shaken. They holde Montpellier, Aiguesmortes, Nysmes, Castres, Ozais, and Montauban, which are townes of great importunitie. I doe not heare that their is anie thinge done in Guyenne by the D. of Mayne muche worthie of the wrightinge. Bussy d'Amboyse contentith him self with Angiers and Le Pont de Sey, and goeth no further, but I thinke there is some secrett mistery in this matter. Thus you see how the devill rageth amongst [us] with fyer and sworde, because we will not suffer God to raigne ouer vs.

Allthoughe I dwell farr from Parris, or rather no where, wandering from place to place, yet I am not vnacquainted with your Sonnes doings in Parris, and cannott comend him inoughe vnto you aswell for his dilligence in study as for his honest and quiett behaviur, and I dare assure you that you maye be bolde to trust him aswell for the order of his expences as for his gouernment otherwise. Parris is a place that will trye the disposition of yong men, so as for this experience which I haue had of your sonne and of your servant Poole I may be bold to saye thus much vnto you, that the one is able to governe him self, and the other sufficient

in honestie and discretion to governe anie mannes sonne that I knowe in the West parts of England. Surely I speake playnely vnto you as I thinke. And thus with my most harty comendacions vnto you and my good Lady, with the lyke vnto you both from my wife, I comitt you, good S^r George, to the mercyfull tuicion of the Almightye. From Towres.

TO S^R FRAUNCIS KNOLLS.

Yt maye please your Honor to hold me exceused that I did not write vnto you by my last messenger, haveinge taken fissike att that tyme, by occasion whereof I was forced to leave many of my honorable friendds vnremembered. And like as I am gladde to heare from your H: and of your good health, and especiall by your owne lettres, so I ame no lesse desiorous to acknowledge my dewty and thankefullnes towardes you not only by my lettres but by all such other lyttle as God hath given me. Dampuille hath played the Frencheman, and is revoltyd from the Protestants, proferinge his best service againste them, and to this purpose an armie is prepared in Languedocq, where Montpellier, Nymes, Aigemortes, Ozais, Castres and Montauban holde for those of the Religion, and are resolute to abyde all extremities, yf for no other cause yet for the hatred which they haue conceiued against Dampuille: he hath liued there longe tyme with great honor, and some thinke that he will departe thence with as great dishonor. Monsieur is nowe before Yssorie in Auuergne, where he trustith to finde them as tractable as those of La Charité. The Kinge and his followers are in great corrage, and in dede they haue no other cause, when they goe where they list and almost doe what they list without resistance. Bussy d'Amboyse remaineth still in Aniou, where he taryethe a good how^r to doe some bad pointe of service yf I be not deceiued. The D: of Mayne contyneweth in the parts aboute Rochell, and the yong Lansacq keepeth the seas before Rochell with certaine shippes. Thus you see the poore state

of the Protestants in these parts, and how they are driven into narrow rome: God deliuer them by his mightie and miraculous power! for the power of man will not helpe them, because God will not haue it so, eyther to shew his justyce towards them or vs for our contempte of his word and Gospell, or els to shewe his might in mercy and now to helpe us when our strength fayleth. His hollie and blessed will be fulfilled! And thus resting att your comandement, I comitt your Honour to the &c.

TO THE EARLE OF HARTFORD.

My verie good L: I must crave pardon of your Lordship that I haue not troubled you soner with my lettres, wherein I will vse no shift of excuse vpon hope that your Lordship conceiueth so well of me, as you will rather impute this faulte to anie other thinge than to wante of good will, which shalbe allwayes readye to my little power to doe you seruice in greater matters. I did forgett the promise I made vnto your L: and did not thinke that you had followed the courte, vntill I was put in remembraunce by my seruante Rowe. All things continue here after the olde fashion. Trouble and dissention ys our portion. We cannot acquainte our selues with the [rule] of Davide to seke after peace and to pursue it, and in dede we are not worthie of so good a blissinge. The renderinge of La Charyté hath put vs in goode courage. And now we thinke that other townes will followe this gentall example, and with this hope Monsieur is nowe before Yssaire in Auvergne. Dampuille is reconcylled to the King, and is nowe ready to beare armes againste the Protestants. He sayeth their jealousies and suspicions haue forcyd him thus to doe, but it maye seame that they did not mis-truste him ynoughe. The D. of Mayne hath his armie in Guyenn, where he hath done no great thinge. Bussy d'Amboyse hath his little armie in Aniou, but whom he serueth God knoweth. Thus

your L: seyeth how the poore Protestants are besett on euery syde, and in dede it may seme that the world hath forsaken them: but it is now that God will shewe his mightie power, when we cann no longer glory in our owne strength. France hath had good and comfortable prooffe of the mercyes of God in greater extremities then this cometh vnto, and he is yet where he was, neyther is his arme shortened.

My servant Rowe hath a sewte vnto your Lordship in the behalfe of his ffather, vnto whome yf yt shall please you to shewe favor the rather for my sake, I shall thinke my self much bounden vnto your L: and shalbe ready to acknowledge yt with any pleasure or service that maye lye in my little power. I must confesse that your L: hath bounde me sufficiently already by your former curteises to be wholly att your comaundement, and so you shalbe assuryd to fynde to my litle power. And vppon this promis I leaue to trouble your L: any farther, comitting you to the mercyfull tuicion of the Allmightie. From Towrs, &c.

To M^R DALE.

Good M^r Dale, You must holde me excused althoughe I did not wryte vnto you by Knevett, att which tyme I was constrayned to take phisike, by occasion whereof I left many of my good frendes vnremembered. You must at one woorde impute it rather to anie thinge then to wante of good will, when I doe not write vnto you. We are no changelings in this contrey; we fight and trouble in euery corner, and cannott abyde to heare of peace. One armie in Guyne, an other in Auvergne, and the third now in preparing for Languedocq, Bussy being not altogether vnworthie to be accompted in this nomber, who hathe 4000 souldiers att his comaundement. I cannott tell what this Bussy will prove to be att the last, but in this meane tyme all his neyghbours wery of him. Our enymies abroad neede not com hether to hurt vs. We haue armies ynoughe in our owne contrey to

destroy our selves by our selves. Monsieur is departed towards Yssorye, and dothe trust to haue a speady and easey victory. Dampeuille is reconcilled to the Kinge, and is joyned with Joyeuse. Thus you see what wee are when we trust to our owne pollecyes, and do not depend vppon the direction of the Allmightie. Dampuille promyseth to doe great things in Languedocq, and no doubt hath greate meanes to perform it. He knoweth the Protestants, their councells, their meanes, their forces, their hope att home and abroad. He knoweth them *intus et in cute*. He knoweth them too well for their profitt. I heare of no great things done by the Duke of Mayne in Guyenne. The yonge Lansacq kepeth the seas before Rochell. The poore Hugonites are assayled of euery side, and yet God is where he was ; to whose good [tuition] I comitt, &c. From Towers, the &c.

TO MR TREMAYNE.

Good Mr. Tremayne, Your lettres of the first of Aprill, written so farre from me in the end of the worlde, and from so good a freinde, were no lesse welcome vnto me then they deserved ; and I trust neuer to be so farre out of charitie but that my greatest enymie that shall deserue worste of me shalbe greatefull vnto me yf he bringe the newes of your well doinge. God blesse you in your quietnes ! which he will doe the rather yf you make your profitt of God's blissinge, and receaue your contrey['s] lybertie with thankfullnes as a manifest token of his singler favor and mercy towards [you].

No man is more gladde to heare of Mr. Grenfildes well doinge then I, and that he passeth his sheiryfwike with such worshippe and creditt, where in as in all his other actions I wishe vnto him as to my owne self.

You looke to heare of somewhat of the state of things heare, which are so ylfavored as I take no pleasure in writting of them. You haue harde of the renderinge of La Carité to Monseur by com-

position, and now he is departed from the Courte the xxjth of this presente towards Issorie in Auuergne, where he trusteth to find lyke entertaynment. Dampuille is reconcilled to the Kinge, and promiseth to doe great things against the Protestants; his power and creditt ys great in Languedocq, he is acquainted with all the secretts of the Protestants; no doubt he wilbe a daungerous enemy. And yet the Protestants are very stronge in Languedocq, where they hold Montpellier, Nysmes, Ozais, Agemortes, Castres, and Montauban, townes of great strength and importunitie, and are said to be so incensed againste Dampuille, as they will not fayle to leaue a bloody victory to their enymies. The D. of Mayne remayneth with his armie in the parts aboute Rochell, where he hathe don no great thinge that I can learne. The yong Lansacq kepith the seas before Rochell with tenn or twelke shippes. Thus you se we haue our armies by sea and land, and yet we are content to treat of peace, and to this purpose the D. of Montepensier is now with the Kinge of Nauer, but I haue no great hope that we shalbe so happy this yeare. We buylde uppon our owne polecyes; we take not our counsell of the Allmightie; we seeke not after God, and therefore he turneth his face from vs. God only knoweth what wilbe the end of these thinges, and his will be fullfilled; and graunt, if it be his good pleasure, that these new and notable examples may yet att the last awake Englande, that lyeth lulled in the creadell of dangerous seruices. I fear our visitacion to be to nere. God graunt it be in his mercy! Farewell, my good frinde, and comend me most hartely to your selfe and your good wyfe. And so I comitt you both to the mercyfull tuicion of the, &c.

To M^r BEALE.

Good M^r Beale, You and manie others must hold me excused althoughe you harde nothing from me by the last messenger; at which tyme I had taken phisicke, so as I was not in state to wryte

many lettres. God graunte you yn England to take the counsell of the Allmighty in all your actions and proceedings, and namely in matters of religion ; so shall you walke rightly, so shall your doings be well directed, when the good spiritt of our good God dothe direct them. The recomendacions of Nicasius by a freind of small accompt were sufficient vnto me, being of my self so well affected towards him ; but a word from so good a frind as M^r Beale will force me to streach all my meanes to add somewhat to my owne disposition for your sake. I cannott hope for any good successe of our flatteries and Spannysh intertainments, fearing least the heaue hand of God will fall vppon the Lowe Countryes for our great abuse of his worde and Gospell. Yt may not seme strainge to you that Dampuille a Frenchman of bloud and birth is reconcyld to the K: and ys now ready to beare armes against the Protestants. I cannott tell what to thinke of Bussy d'Amboyse, whose doings vnder the colour of folishe rashnes carye with them so depe and daungerous trecherie, if I be not deceaued. Monsuire is departed towards Issorie, where the D. of Neuers attendeth his coming. I omytt other particularities because I know you shalbe made acquainted with all my aduertisements. And thus, resting towards you after the old fashion, I comitt you, good M^r Beale, to the tuicion of the Allmightie. From Towers, &c.

To M^r BRONCKAR.

S^r, Your lettres of the viijth of Aprill cam to my handes the vth of May, which I had not fayled to have awnswered by my last messenger if I had not ben constrayned at that tyme to take phisicke, by occasion where of I left manie of my best frindes vnremembered. I am right gladde to vnderstand by your lettres that you are so well recoueryd of your late sicknes, and do praye you to thinke that as in your health so in all other felicities I wishe as well vnto you as anie frinde you haue lyvinge. I thinke my self much bounde to the

Earl of Ormonde for his good remembraunce of me, and am easely perswaded to thinke that he dothe not hate me, for the longe experience which I haue had of his good fauor towards me. You shall doe me pleasure to retorne my most humble comendacions vnto his Lordship, and to assure him of the readines of my seruice where yt shall please him to imploye me. Our matters here goe verie hardlie for those of the Religion, La Charité rendred by composicion as you haue harde, and nowe Yssorie beseegeed by Mounsieur. Dampville is reconcyled to the K., and nowe there is nothinge to be looked for at his handes but all extremitie, as well therby to recover his credite with the K: as because he will looke for no better intertainement att the handes of those of the Religion. The D. of Mayne remayneth in Guyenne, where he hath recouered som small townes of no great importaunce. Thus you see the Protestants are of the losing syde, and I praye God this losse be not lamented of their neyghbours when it shalbe to late. And now I leaue you to your frindes and myne of the court, beseching God to blesse you all and graunte vs well to meete again at his good pleasure. From Towers.

To S^R JHON CLYFTON.

My good brother, Althoughe I knowe not where you are or what contrey doth holde you, yet I doubt not but that my lettres shall walke so long from contrey to contrey, that att the laste you shall fynde. Our lettres talke of contery matters, of the good health of our contrey freindes, how the world goeth in Somerset and Wilteshire, and of such lyke stuffe; and therefore they carry no daunger, they care not who see them, they passe throughe all counteries, and the only thinge that is to be feared in them is that they come slowlye, and yet fast enoughe amongst good frindes. Our frinde-shippe is ould, and hath no great need of these great intertaynements, and yet nothing is so stronge that must not be mayntayned in tyme convenient. This intercourse of lettres is not only pleasaunt

but allso necessary, which shall not be omitted as opportunitie shall serue. I receaued lettres once from you sythence my cominge hether, which I awnswered long sythence, and do not doubt but that my aunswere ys com to your hands. I desyer much to heare from you how you profitt in the French tong, because my body is weake and may not long indeure the trobels of this contrey, so as I shalbe driven to call vppon you after one yere more, and indeed as this world goeth my supplie cannott come too soone. There is no rest in this contry, dayly remouing, and now att the last I feare we shall into Guyenne, where the soldier hath left nothing that is worth the takeing. You shalbe happie, you shall fynde the cuntrey in good peace, the courte att Parris, and there shall passe your two or three yeres in great quietnes. You thinke I speake in sporte. Well, I must now tell you that we are no changelings in this contrey; we fyght and brawle after the owld fasshion, and haue lyved so longe in this hell that I thinke we know no other heauen. La Charyté is yelded to Monseir, and now he besegeth Yssorie yn Auuergne, where he looketh for lyke speed. Dampuille is revolted and hath made his peace with the Kinge, and now will beare armes againste the Protestants. This is a godly fayth of these Papistes; God deliuer me from them and me to. (*sic*) The D. of Mayne hath his armie in Guyenne, where he hath done no great things that I can learne. We have an other armie in Aniou which is comandyd by Bussy d'Amboyse; but what this ffellow will doe I cannot tell you. Thus you see how we are occupied in this contrey, and by our doings you maye knowe whose men we are. God graunt vs his grace and make vs his seruants! Yt is tyme to tourne another leafe yf we haue anie care eyther of our quietnes in this world or of our sowles in the other world.

I vnderstand by lettres from Mr. Walsingham that ye have vsed him frindly, and that he thinketh him self much beholdinge vnto you, wherein [I] accompte you happie that you have done pleasure to that honorable gentleman, and my selfe no lesse happie that my [friend] hath done itt, and doe take it as done to my self. I knowe

he is not vnthankefull, and where his thankes haue passyd my thankes are nedlesse and there is no place for them, but I would haue you to knowe that Mr. Wallsingham is so deere vnto me as I would for his sake add somwhatt to my good opinion of you yf I could.

And now farewell, my good brother, and lett me heare from you. My comendacions to my good syster maye not be forgotten, with the like vnto you both from my wife. And thus I comitt you to the mercyfull tuicion of the Allmighty. From Tours.

TO MR^R SECRETARY WALSINGHAM.

Yt may please your Honor to be aduertised that sithence the wryteing of my last lettres sent by Mr. Wade, my seruante mentioned in the same to haue ben sent into Bretaine is retornede; who, as he passyd thoroughe Mayne, fell into the hands of Matignon and Ramboillet at the lyttell towne callid Sably, where after long and straight examinacion he was sent to the castell, and there strypped twyse to his shirte, and the colour (collar?) of his shirte and all his other garments searched with all extremitie. Yt was found that he had no lettres, instructions, or anie other thinge in wrighting, and [it] semyd straunge vnto them that pretending to be sent into Jersaye he had no lettres from me to my Leiuetenants, which he excused with some reason affirming that he refused to cary lettres, doubting least they might give occasion of his staye in his jorney, as had happned not long sythence to one of my servants passing towardes Jersay thoroughe Normandy, where he was comitted to ward, his packet of lettres sent to Matignon, and was not deliuered againe vnto him vntyll after xv^{ten} dayes, so as it is likely that the same was sent to the Court. I thinke they were sorye for their owne trouble and expence, the lettres importing no other thinge then my priue busines with my brothers and some others of that isle. After two dayes my seruante stayed as is before said att Sably was discharged, and a gentleman was sent

after him to see his doings and what waye he tooke in his journey, whoe dyd not forsake him vntyll he was past the towne of Vittry, doubting of likelihoode least his errande should be to some of those parts. My servant tooke his waye directly to S^t Malo, where he spent three dayes, and duringe his abodde there ladyd some fardell of canvas as he had ben wont to doe att other tymes, being one that professyth merchandise, and his presence being now knowne to many of the officers and others of the towne, which he desiered for his better discharge towards Mantignon because he maketh manie voyages into Normandy, he fayned to haue moe occasions of busynes to retorne vnto me for some paiments which he had to make for me. He considered that yf he shoulde be taken in anie place out of the highe waye between Bloyes (from whens he cam) and S^t Malo he should be in perill of his lyfe, and therefore durst not to go forward in his journey; and in dede he was nowe farre out of his ready waye, and therefore addressed him self to Mons^r de Martynes, whom he knewe to be my very good frinde; and, acquainting him wth his yll happe, prayed him to do me the pleasure to send some man of purpose to knowe the certenty of these preparacions, and to advertise me thereof with all dilligence by some faythfull messenger. This gent. hath vndertaken to doe it with effect, and I loke howerly to heare from him, and sendethe me worde by my said servant that of truth La Roche prepareth certayne shippes and as he is informed dothe make one or two newe shippes which are not yet ready. I am also advertised by my said servaunt from a marchant of good credit in S^t Malo that Fytz-moris, beinge not yet retorned from the Pope, hath advertysed his wyfe that the Pope hath promised great assystance in shippinge and other wayes, and namlie in eight galleys, and will write to the French K: to give lyke furtheraunce. I am given to vnderstand from the Courte that La Roche ys an insolent fellow, that a kingdome is too lyttle for him, that he dependeth alltogether vppon the Guyse, and that he is a lyke man to attempt any desperat voyage. Although I am not hable at this presente to informe your

Honour of the certaine number of shippes which are preparing, or of the certayne tyme when they wilbe in full readines to take the seas, yet considering yt is most certayne that some shippes are now rigned and some new building, and comparinge the great charge of these preparacions with the slender qualitie of La Roche, whoe is said to be of small abyllitie and vtterly vnhable to beare this heauie burthen, and seing that he doth not joyne with Lansacq, which he woulde haue done before this tyme yf his interprise had ben intended for the K.'s seruice, and therefore concluding in my simple opinion that there is some treacherous meaning against Ireland, I thought it agreable with my dewty to aduertise so much as is allready com to my knowledg, trusting to be informyd verie shortely of all other particularities by my French messenger; and because I will not be deceayd by French promises I have dyspached one of my owne seruants directly to the place. Yt may please your Honour to remember that I willed Nycasius to report by mouth (which is thought more fitt then to comitt the same to wryting) that La Roche preparyd xij or xiiij shippes, and thoughe he pretendeth to go to La Florida yet that his enterpryse was thought to be intended eyther for Rochell or for Ireland. Sythence that tyme I have sent my Jersay man of purpose to explore the certantie of these things, although his voyage hath not prosperid as you haue harde, and yet it hath not ben altogether vnprofitable, and nowe of late I haue dispached another of my seruants, so as I trust your Honour dothe see I haue done my best indeavor.

La Motte Fenelon arryued at the court from the King of Navarre and the D. of Monpensier the first of thes presente, and was dispatched againe towards them the vth of the same accompanied with Villeroy. This sodayne dispatch, compared with many other circumstances, dothe seme to inferre that the K: could be content to come to some reasonable composition; and some thinke that this long treaty will come to nothing, and the rather because the comissioners for K: are deuided among them selues, La Motte Fenelon and

de Foix beinge inclyned to peace, but the Bishoppe of Vienne, Mons^r D^e Escers, and the President of Tholouse sekeing daylie newe deuyses to breake it. Yt is thought that the house of Guyse hathe corrupted the Bishoppe of Vienne.

The K: of Nauarre is said to be waxed stubborne *et qu'il parle plus haut qu'il ne souloit*, and that he requiereth, besides the contents of the last edict, *villes frontieres et portes de mer*, for his secueritie, and that vntill it shalbe satysfied in these points he will not deale of any other.

The K: ys aduertised out of Germanie that Duke Cazimir maketh secret preparacions vnder hand with full resolucion to come into France in August, and that this next midsomer he will declare himself openly.

They did not loke that at this tyme La Verdon should haue besieged La Ville Franche a towne in Perigort, not farr from Bergeracq, and that they finde it more strainge that he hath wonne it. Yt is said that all the soldiers are put to the sworde, and a great part of the inhabitants. The Viconnt of Turrayne is stronge in Perigortt, Lymosin, and Quercy, where he is well obeyd and his companie well ordyred.

Those of Rochell haue sett out some shippes, and haue fought with the yonge Lansacq, who is said to be hurte, many of his souldyers slayne, and his whole navye forcyd to retyer to Blaye.

Yt hath ben given out here with grate gladnes that one man could not satisfie him self with bread in Rochell one daye for xij souls Tournois, and that they were brought to great extremitie manie wayes, but it is recayued for truth that they are well provided of all things necessarie, and that they want nothing so much as haye for their horses.

Mons^r D'Alaigre brother to Millo that was murderyd in Parris, Reuty, and the leiftenant of Mons^r S^t Luc, with some others, are slayne before Yssorie, where some saye that the battery began the third of this presente, but [it] is not beleued. Chaignacq comandeth

in Yssorie. Montmorio, premier Escuyer to Q. mother, is allso slayne. The D. of Mayne's armie was bestowed in seuerall townes distant from S^t Jhon d'Angeley fower or fyue leages, attending a newe supplie of munycions of all sortes, horse for the great ordenaunce, and other necessities, which are sent vnto them daylie; but yt is nowe sayde at the court that this armie ys assembled againe, but to what intent I doe not yet knowe, yt is supposed against Brouage.

The K.'s galleys att Nantes are apointed to be readye the xiith of this presente.

Quenes mother's house of Chenonceau hath ben callyd *la maison de bonnes nouvelles*, and there vppon newe devises haue ben mouyd, but is feared least this goodly tyttle will haue no long continewance, and in deed the court is much trobled of latte, where they are forcyd to make newe resolucions. Dampville cannot devise a redier waye to force the townes which holde for the Religion in Languedocq to come to composicion then to spoyle theire provicion of corne and other like comodities, which he is sayd to haue put in practyse allredie, savinge of those thinges for his owne use all that he can.

The secretarie of Mons^r Malvaisier hath informed the K: that her Ma^{ty} gave audience to Haucourt, la Personne, and others goinge towards the Prince of Condé, late in the night, and that to that purpose she removyd in the evenning from the Court to Leicester house; and that these gentlemen, and others their associatts, had in comission from Cazimer to aduise the K: of Nauerr and the Prince of Condé to condyscend to no peace, and that they should assuredly haue fauor out of Germaine. This Secretary vsyd great diligence in this journey, and the Court was much trobled with his message.

I am not much inclyned to graunt pasports to Scotishe men in this doubtfull tyme, but haveing receauyd no comandement to the contrarye, and being earnestly requestyd, I haue grantyd this passport enclosyd, which I haue done the more willingly because they are not yet ready to departe; so as I doubt not but that my

lettres will come to your hands long tyme before their aryvall. I am aduertised that Moulynes ys corrupted, and that he goeth ouer for some badd practise. And althoughe he pretend to make this voyage to lyue in lyberty of conscience, one of his familiers hath said to a third that this Moulins hath refused this jorneye three tymes, and then he goeth comandyd and not of his owne free will; he is sayd to haue crounes for this journey, and that his errand toucheth the Q. of Scootes in honor and lyfe. He hath dayly conferance with Mons' Morvilliere, who of lykelyhoode would aunswere him with fewer wordes if he sought nothing but his passport; he is accompanied with diuers archers of the K: garde and amonge others with Drysdale, whoe is latly retorned out of his contrey, and finally a freind of his hath sought to provide for him some sufficient man in the French tonge and hath promised good intertaynment. This Drysdall hath sayde of latte to my Scecretary that the K: of Scotts inquiereth dailie for his mother, where she is prisoner, and why he cann nott see hir. And this Drisdall said further that he fyndeth it very strange that all French men haue accesse to the Scottishe Q., and that the same is forbyden to all Scotts, and thinketh great vnkindnes in your Honor, because you denyed him a lycens to passe ouer twooe English geldings, which he sayth he passed afterwards without your helpe for sixe shillings. Captⁿ Moulynes is maryed to a French woman, and hath good lyvings in Fraunce, and leaveth his wyfe and children behinde him. I leaue these men to your better consideracion.

Yt may please your Honor to consider of this copie inclosed.

The Cardinall of Guyse hath great creditt with the K: att this presente.

Yt is resolued once againe that the K: wilbe in this towne the xith of this presente, and from thence he taketh his journey to Poictere, to which purpose diuers companies of men att armes are allready arryved heare, and in the villages adioyninge.

The Duke of Toskane hath a young sonne of latt, which is much

reioysed of his frinds here. And thus I comitt your Honor to the mercifull tuicion of the Allmightie. From Towers, the xth of June 1577.

TO MR SECRETARY WALLSINGHAM.

I thanke your Honor most humbly for your good and frindly remembraunce of me towching the wardshippe of the yonge M^r Roieswell, wherin you shewe your good affection towards me, and indede it should be very hard for you as longe as you liue to doe me a better tourne, and yet the lettres which I have recayued of fresh date out of the West parts put me in good hope that the boye is yet livyeng. I thanke your Honor once againe, and I would I could do more then thanke you. I comaundyd my seruante Rowe yf William Rowswell be decessyed to follow your aduise in his sewte to my L: Trer. I would it would please your Honour to send me some Cipher for the Prince of Oringe, P: of Condé, Don Jhon, Cazimer, D. of Guyse, Dampuille, Vicont de Tourayne, and La Motte, the gentleman of Bretaine mentioned in my other lettres, yet not vnknowne to Monsuire Villiers. I have written to no other counsellors att this tyme but my lord Tresorer, vnderstanding that my lord of Lecester is now in the Northe parts. And thus I comytt your Honor, &c.

TO MY L: TRESORER.

My very good Lord, I haue receaued your Lordship's comfortable message of your singuler favor and especiall goodnes towards [me] towching the wardshippe of the daughter of William Rauswell, wherin I acknowledg my selfe more bound vnto your Lordship then my seruise and poore good will cann any waye deserue. And lyke as the matter ys no doubt of good benefitt, and for my part must confesse that I neuer receayued the lyke, so suerly the assuerance of

your Lordship's frindshippe and favor towards me appearing so playnly in this good torne, and in your fatherly care of me in this tyme of my absence, ys more comfortable and more greatfull vnto me then the valewe or profit of this warde. Yt maye please your Lordship to haue this opinion of me, that no gentleman in England shall honor, loue and serue you more willingly or more faythfully then Amyas Pawlett, and so I trust your Lordship doth accompt of me, desiering nothing more then some good occasion to shew my thankefullnes. I referre your Lordship for the occurantes of these partes to this coppie inclosed of my lettres addressed to M^r Secretary; and thus resting att your Lordship's comandement, I comitt you to the tuicion of th' Allmightye, who allwayes preserue your good Lordship. Towers.

TO M^R BEALE.

Good M^r Beale, I have recayued your frindley lettres, wherin you shewe your sincere affection towards me, and could not haue deliuerd a better testimony of your vnfayned fryndshippe. I lovyd you so well before as I cannott loue you better, which I would doe if I could, and not without your deserte. I praye you take occasion to see my lettres wryghten here with all to M^r Secretary, by the which you shall see some parte of our doings here, and I trust to your satisfaction in some things. I leaue to troble you with manie words, and with most harty comendacions comitt you to the tuicion of the Allmighty. From Towres, the ixth of [June.]

TO THE QUEENES MA^{TIE}.

Yt may please your Ma^{tie} to be aduertised that the xiiith of this presente after none theire arryved a messenger att the court from Yssorye, whose message was very vnpleasant to the K: aswell for the repulse given to Mons^r in the assault of that towne given the

ixth of the said moneth, as for those that were there slayne in great number, being certainly reported that Bussy brother to Bussy d'Amboyse, Chasteau Badeauls, La Motte, de Vitery, Laigny, Reliers, with manye other captains and gentlemen are dead in the breach, and Turnon, le Jeune Teual, le Jeune Mangero, le filz du sieur Monstreul, le Jeune Guysche, Chauallon, and great number of others hurt and woundyd. The next daye, being the xiiijth of this presente, there arryued another curryer to aduertise the takeing of Yssory. The K: before ix of the clocke the same daye sent for the Abbott Gvadania, whoe had ben alredy with the Ambassador for the Pope, and from me went to all the others Amb^r, to inform vs of the good successe of Monsieur in this interprise. Towching the manner of these doings yt is said that those of Yssorye left the breach open vnto the enymye, retyering them selves into their defences of euery syd, where they were assuryd to haue the assayllants open vnto them assone as thaye appeared vnto them in the breach, and then to put them to a fresh assaulte of their new trenches. After the repulse geuen the ixth of this presente as ys aforesayd, the ennymie fortyfied the breach, and their they dwelled together as bad neyghbours by the space of twoe dayes, during which tyme those of the King's parte grewe to be stronge as well in the breach as in other places adioyninge to the towne, that they of Yssory thought good to treat of peace, and neglecting their breaches vppon boldnes of this conference, those of the King's parte enterid the towne, where they revenged the death of their fellowes slaine in the first assault, which were supposed in the whole to be lytle lesse then five hundered, of which number fyfty or more bare the countenance of gentlemen.

There hath ben great coning vsyd to cloke these doinges, and althoughe they have done their best to dissemble it, yet the lamentacion of the ladies at the court could not be hidden. Your Ma^{tie} would marvell to se the contraryetie between the secrett whisperinges of good (*sic*) and the open reporte of councellors and other great

personages. The King, contrarye to his former resolucion, departed very sodenly from the towne the xvijth of this presente, and ys gone to a house belonging to the Cardinall of Guyse called Burgines, from whence he taketh his journey towards Poitiers, the Ambassadors being already warnyd to make their repair thether.

Great preparacions are made by sea and lande for some great thinge to be done att Rochell or about Rochell; and to this purpose, besydes troupes of horsemen, munitions of all sorts, horses for carryage, and other lyke provisions passyd this waye towardes the D. of Mayne, yt is certaynely affirmed the galleys att Nants were in full readynes to departe the of this present, and it is said that the D: of Mayne hath now alredy beseged Brouage.

Manie here of good iudgment are perswadyd that the suerty and safty of the Protestants dependeth altogether of the coming or not coming of the Reistres, and that the K: is incensyd with such furye against the trewe relygion as he will neuer condescend to anie reasonable condicions of peace vntill he shalbe constrayned by the sworde, which cannot be expected of the French sworde, the odds being of the King's syde without comparison. Monsieur and the D. of Mayne haue not ben ydle with their armes, increasing daylie vppon the enemy to the great incoragement of their partye; and Danuille, Bellegarde and Maudelot whoe is now said to be ioyned with them haue in Languedocq reducyd manie seuerall townes of late to the King's obedience, so as the strength of the Protestants yn that prouince semyth to depend of vj or vij townes, which are in deed of good importaunce, and yet the harvest is said to be spoiled about these townes, and especyally about Nysmes and Montpellier. I do not doubt but that it maye be possyble for the K: of Navarre and his assosiatts, although they shall not be succored this yere by anie forrayne nation, to defend themselues and many good townes against the rage of the enymie be he neuer so stronge vntyll another yere; but this

delaye ys accompanied with so manie dangers as the event thereof semeth very doubtfull. The daylie incroching of the enemy is in it self perillous. The winning of one lyttle towne doth often cause the yelding of two or three greater townes. The heads of the Protestants are yonge, and I cannott tell yf they will endure with pacience this long imprisonment. Desiering of lybertye hath great force with yong men, and maketh them often to forgett both honor and conscience. Manie other circomstances may seme worthy to be consydered, and espeti- allie that if this tract of tyme may be anie waye profittable vnto the Protestants which are nowe the weaker, how much may it be more profittable vnto the Papists which are now the stronger, who maketh his profitt of the presente tyme and will provide to be the lyke for the tyme to come. I haue hard saye that the defence ys as just where an offence is expectid, as where the offence is giuen already, so as the defence doe not proceed of needlesse feare or malicious couetuousness. And if this rule be trewe, yt shalbe meete for Christian Princes to consider in tyme yf they be not already dryven to thys necessytie as eyther must offer violence in season or suffer violence out of season. If religion were not a sworne quarell, whoe can looke that when the Protestants here shalbe vnderfoote, that these their army wilbe ydle att home? Yf att othér tymes yt hath ben receiued for a maxime that Fraunce must alwayes haue some warre in hande, how much more now when they haue ben unsettled as they cannott abyde to lyue in peace? God graunt the end of these things to redounde to the glorye of God, to the honor of your Ma^{ty}, and of all other trew Christian princes, and to the comfort of the poore afflycted Church of Christ!

The Compt of Genevois, sonne to the D. of Nemours by the sister of Rouhan, was knowne to haue often accesse to a house dystant from Rochell twoe leagues or theareabouts; and now of latte the cap- tayne of Toune la Charente, being aduertised by spyall corrupted for that purpose that the said Compt was repaiered theither, envyroned

the house by nyght and theyr tooke him prisoner, accompanied with the yonge Brycquemault and one other yonge gentleman. A post was dispatched emedyattly to the K: whoe sent a messenger with lyke to the Duchesse of Nemours, and vppon the resolucion yt is nowe given out that the said Compte is murdered, and yet this reporte ys deliuered in such sorte as some thinke it to be done rather to fele howe the world will take itt then that it is so indeed, because many doe thinke it vnlykely that the D: of Nemoures should be drawn to condescend to the murther of hir owne sonne. But the better sorte do beleue he is dead allready.

The D. of Mayne is before Brouage, where it is saide he hath recoueryd a windmyll and a well of watter which are of some importance, and they hope att the courte to heare greater things from him very shortely.

I was comandyd by lettres from M^r Walsingham to signifie your Majesty's pleasure to the French King towching Fytzmorrrys and La Roche, and haueing receyved these lettres the xith of this presente and the Kinge repayering hether the xiith, and resoluinge to remayn here x or xii dayes, uppon hope to heare of my servante whom I had sent of purpose three weekes past to learne the certanty of these doings, the xvjth being aduertised that the Kinge would departe the next daye I desyred audience, as the Ambassador of Florence dyd the lyke, and were both refussed. I thinke in deede the K: thought that we had no other busines with [him] then to congratulate the takeing of Yssorye, which all other ambassadors had done already. The xvijth I causyd the King to be movyd herein againe before his coming out of his chamber, and prayed audyence either before his departure, or att Bourgueil whether he then removid, or in his waye towardes Bourgueil. I was prayed from the K: to be content, that he was then vppon his remoue, his journey was vncertayne, his abode in euery place verie shorte, and that he would not fayle to be att Poictiers within x: dayes, where he had allready taken order for the lodgings of the Ambassadors, desyering

me to forbear him tyll his coming thether. Because my servante sent into Bretaine thre weeks past was not retornyd, and therefore [I] was not sure of the certayne state of things there, doubting least the K: suspecting the occasions of my often askeing of audyence vppon som yntelligence receauyd from his Ambassador in England, had resoluyd to delaye me with intent to effectuate this enterpryse, and then to excuse it the more cleanly because he was not aduertised of your Majesty's pleasure, I sent my Secretary with speede to Bourgueil, and because I doubted that the Abbott of Guadania, who nowe supplied the place of Mons^r Gondy during his absence, deallyd coldly in this matter, I addressyd my servant to Mons^r Pynart one of the Secretaries to the K: whom yndeed I fynde very fryndly towardes me, by whom I informyd the K: that my negocyation was of good importance, and such as concernyd as well your Ma^{ty} as him selfe, and therefore desyered speedy audyence, offering my attendaunce where and when he should appointe. Mons^r Pynart made the matter easye att the first motion, and assuryd my servant that the K: would not refuse me, but after three or fower howers he deliuered for answeare, that the K: seing my earnest desyer to have audyence repentyd that he had not granted it when he was yett att Towres, but being now enteryd into his journey, it was not possible that I might haue accesse vnto him vntyll his comyng to Poicteres, which should be very shortely, prayeing me with manie ceremonies to forbear him. I was not satisfied with this answeare, and therefore vnderstanding that the K: would not remoue from Bourgueil distant from Towers xii leagues vntyll the xxth of this presente, and that he would not be att Poictiers vntill the xxvith and perchance not so sone, fearing least this long tract of tyme might hinder your Majesty's seruice, I dyspached my servant againe in post with newe request for audyence either att Bourgueil or att anie other place to be appointed by his Majesty, and then receiuyd answeare from him by Mons^r Pynart that he was resoluyd to haue departyd from Bourgueil the next daye att vi of the cloke in the mornynge, but if I could be

with him by vij of the clocke he woulde be gladd to giue me audience, and that my dynner should be prepared, and that one should attend me att [the] townes end to directe me to the place where I shoulde discend. I dyslodgid from Toures in the evening, and was at Bourguel the next morning by vj of the clocke, where Fregose an Italian was sent by the K: to entertayne me vntyll I should be callyd to his presens. About ix of the clocke I was requiered to repayer to the Court, where Mons^r Lansacq receauyd me, and after he had spent half an hower with me I was callyd to the K: presence, whom I founde accompanied with Q. Mother. Yt maye seme worthey the obseruinge that in all my negociacions with the K: I fynd him assysted with his mother. I had desyered audyence of her as a thing that she loketh for, and do fynde that she lyketh well that your Ma^{ties} ministers should addresse them especially vnto her in your Majesty's affayers. Following the contents of M^r Walsingham's lettres of the vjth of this presente, I signified vnto the K: and Quene Mother that your Highnes was credyblye aduertised that James Fytzmorris had obtayned of his Ma^{tie} a promise of men, shippes and municions to make some discent in Ireland, and that La Roche maketh preparacions in Bretaygne with pretence to go to La Floryde but indeed with full meaning to joyne with the said Fytzmorris to this interprise, and therefore your Ma^{tie} had comandyd me to signifie vnto him that in case the things should falle out to be trewe, your Highnes should haue iust cause to find your self greeued, as with a matter tending manifestly to the breach of the good amitie which hath continved so long tyme between the two crownes. But your Ma^{tie} reposed your self more vppon the protestacions made by his Ambassador resident in England of his great good will and sincere affection towards you then vppon the falce reports of a rebell and a traytour, who perchance hath giuen out this speach rather because he would haue it so to be, then because it is so indeed, and that therefore your Highnes thought it more agreable with your honor to suspend your iudgment of these reports then

ouer hastely to giue credytt to the same. Neuertheless you thought it agreable with the good intellygence that is betwene you to acquainte him with such reports as are come to your knowledge, and did not doubt to receiue such awnswere from him as shoulde be worthie of the good amitie betwene your Ma^{tie} and him. The K: awnswere he was farr from thinkeing any such matter, and much more from makeing any such promise to Fytzmorryes, and that he desyered nothing more then to nourysh and increase the good amitie between your Ma^{tie} and him, fynding it very strange that anie such reporte should be made vnto you. As for La Roche (sayeth the Q: mother,) I comandid him, when he movyd me fyrst of his voyage at Bloys, to haue nothing to doe with England, Spaine, or Portugall, and would not otherwise giue eare vnto his motion. I replied that this awnswer would be very acceptable vnto your Ma^{tie}, and no lesse agreable to your expectacion, as might appeare by the message which I had deliuered, whoe dyd assure your self of his sinceritie towards you and therefore would not giue hastie creditt to those leaude reports. Fitzmorris is gone home (sayth the King,) and I knowe not where he is. Yt is sayde (quoth I,) that he is gone to the Pope to seeke helpe from him for this interprise, vppon assuerance of your promise towards him. The K: awnsweryd that [if] he were gone to the Pope, as he did not knowe yt, so he could not leet it, and some of your Majesty's subiects had perchance accesse to the Pope without your knowledg; but he affyrmed with othes and execracions that he neuer made any such promise vnto him, and would not fayle to deale *clariment* (that was his tearme) with your Ma^{tie} in all things if you will vse the lyke towards him, and there was no other meane to maynetayne the good amitie which was betwen them then to deale roundly and sincerely the one with the other. But (sayth he,) I am credibly informed that the Q: pretendeth to haue banished some of hir subiects, and that these bannished men make preparacions for their repaier to Rochell. I told him I founde it very strange that anie such report should be

made vnto his Ma^{tie}, and that haveing hard lately out of England I could not perceave either by my lettres or by anie messenger that anie weare banished or any such preparacions made. This was one of the practises (sayth Q: mother,) of Leues the xith when he would doe his neighbour an yll torne, and make him self a stranger to the matter; and to be playne with you, Mons^r l'Embassadeur, (sayeth she,) I haue ben informyd that you haue sent your servants to the K: of Navarre and Prince of Condé and have practised with them I know not what. Madame, (quod I,) now you deale playnely in deed, and I thanke you most humbly for it; and if I haue done as you haue sayde, I must confesse I haue done it without the comaundement of the Q. my misteris, whoe will not fayle to correct me for it; and now lett me defend my self so well as I cann. Yt is not vnknowne vnto manie what seruants I brought ouer with me, and what servants I have kept sythence my coming into this realme, and if anie one belonging vnto me haue made anie voyage either to the K: of Navarre or Prince of Condé I was to awnswere for it to my vttermost perill. But if [I] shalbe found to be innocent here in, then her Ma^{tie} should doe well to giue lesse creditt another tyme to the reporter. She put me in remembraunce of the Spanish Ambassador whoe would tell me that he had harde, that I had said this and that to others and that I wold saye nothing vnto him, and that he would complayne to your Ma^{tie} that I would not deale more roundly with him, where as indeed he would not haue beleued me yf I had sayd it vnto him my self; and when I asked him who had giuen him this informacion, No, (saide he,) Q: Mother hath taught not to reveale them; (whoe hath challenged me with manie things, but I could never learne of her who was my accuser, and so I thinke this chalange towards me to be rather a practise then to proceed of anie good meaning.) But to retorne againe to the quarrell. Q. Mother sayd that if those messengers were not my servants they might be other Englishe men and sent by me, which was as much in effect as if they weare my owne servants, and she knewe very

well they had avowed to be belonging vnto me. I aunswered that neyther seruant neyther any other English man what soeuer had anie such voiage in hand to my knowledge or by my procuerment, and desyrid muche to be better satisfied in this matter. Well! (saythe she,) I will informe my self better, and then you shall know more. The K: sayd nothing to this chaleng, but concluded that he trusteth shortely to be assueryd by me that these reports are made by such as would haue yt so, and not intended indeed by your Ma^{ty}; and that if your Ma^{ty} will deall roundly and sincerly you shall receiue the lyke from him, and yf not he will giue such measure as is measuryd vnto him. Then I thanked his Ma^{ty} that it pleased him to acquaint me with his good newes of the takeing [of] Yssorye, and told him I would not fayle to aduertise your Ma^{ty} thereof, whom I know to be so well affectyd towards him, as you could not but receiue great contentment of anie prosperitie that myght happen vnto him. But if it would please his Ma^{ty} to make a good peace, and that by meanes thereof he were obeyed generally of all his subiects, and that this ciuill warre weare clearly ceassyd, he should then giue your Highnes great occasion to congratulate so singuler a blissing, as a thing most honorable and most profitable that euer happenyd vnto hym. I tolde him that the townes that were destroyed were his townes, the men that were kylled and consumyd in great nombers were his subiects, the mony that was spent of both sydes was his treasure, so as even then when he thought to winne somewhat, he founde nothing but extreme losse and displeasure. I besought God to giue him grace so to consider hereof as might be to the glorie of the Allmightie, and to his owne honour and quietnes. The K: answered that he doubted not but that your Ma^{ty} would be glade to heare of his good successe in all his proceedings, and that he desyered nothing more then to be obeyed of his subiects, being ready to receaue them with all favor yf they will accnowledg him for their K: and Soueraign. He said that your Ma^{ty} supported his rebelles in England, that they were

comforted by you manie wayes. He glaunsyd att the 50000 crownes, but in couert termes. He wished your Highnes to consider that you had Subiects, and that you did not knowe what inconvenience might happen vnto you in your owne Realme, and therefore should deale with others as you would others should deale with you if you were in theire case. I replied that I knewe very well your Ma^{ty} ment nothing but sincerytie towards him, and would perseuer in that disposition yf you were not provoked by his vnfryndly dealing towards you, desyering him againe to consyder effectually of him. He affyrmed as before that your Ma^{ty} should receaue no displeasure by his will or procuerment, and concludyd that he trustyd to haue peace with his subiects verie shortely, haueing imployed the D. of Montpensier and others to that purpose, from whome he had recaued answeere of late that they had grate hope of some good conclusion, and that the K: of Nauarre had sent him worde that he desyered much to see him. I sayed I knewe well that these newes would be very acceptable to your Ma^{ty}; and thus I was dismissed from the K: and Q: mother, after that I had thanked Q: mother for the good intertaynement which she had given my wife on Sondaye last, as indeed bothe shée and the Frenche King's wife did vse her with great favor and familiaritie, and amongst their other talke made many protestacions of theire sincere affection towards your Ma^{ty}. Mons^r Lansacq stayed with the K: and after some conferance had with him, as I take it, resortyd agayne vnto me, where I was walking in the garding with Fregose, and there we spent the tyme vntyll the King had harde masse. He enteryd into many discourses, and amongst other things tould me of the especyall loue and singular affection of Q: mother towards your Ma^{ty}, affyrming that he thought assueredly that after hir owne children she lovyd you best of anie Prince or Princes in this worlde. Yt fell out in talke between Mons^r Lansacq and me that he declaryd vnto me that he had receiued lettres from La Roche the daye next before, and the contents of the lettres were cleane contrary to my imaginacion. I told

him I was very glad to heare that La Roche was yet within the King's dominions, and that now if he did heare after attempte anie thinge to the preiudice of your Ma^{ty} the K: was voyde of all excuse towards you, because being informed of his badd meaning he had good meane to brydle him att his pleasure. Mons^r Lansacq answered that if your Ma^{ty} dealt roundly and sincerely with the K: you might be assuured there should be no thing done by La Roche or any others from hens that should offend you. But if you did otherwise he would promise nothinge. After masse was ended I was carryed by Mons^r Lansacq to a table where dyned the Cardynall of Guyse, Mons^r Lansacq, Monsier Veligneir and his brother, Fregose, and the gentlemen of my trayne. The dynner was very sumptuous, and three messes were provided, thinking that all the yong gentlemen of my trayne would haue dyned there, but I admitted only those of the better sorte. After dynner endyd the Cardynall of Guyse asked me for the Q. of Scotts, sayeing that he hard saye that she was gone to the waters of Buckstone. I awnsweryd that I hard she was appointed to make some prograce, but whether I could not tell. He sayde he could not forbear to wishe well vnto you for the affynitie betwene them. I told him that she should do the better if he would giue her good counccile, whoe for his old yeares and longe experience knewe better what was fytt for her then her self. He sayeth that he hath always aduised her to seeke the favor of your Ma^{ty}, and that her awnswers hath ben agreable thearonto. I told him her doings had ben so manifest in tymes past as no man might excuse them, I wished her to be wiser heareafter. Thus I haue trobled your Ma^{ty} with manie tryffles, and yet I thinke it agreable with my dewty to aduertise you of all the particulartyties of my proceedings att the courte. I trust your Ma^{ty} will hold me excused allthough my messenger be not yet retornyd out of Bretayne, whoe hath ben now three weeks in the voyage, had a good guelding, and mony in his purse, and was a fytt man for the purpose, wherin I thinke Mr. Walsingham will wittnes with me. Men may purpose, but God doth dis-

pose of these things att his pleasure. Yt maye please your Ma^{ty} to be aduertised that whereas I had a choyse left me touching the spech which I should use from you vnto the K: the same standing upon these termes that if by such as I had sent into Bretayne yt did appeare vnto me vppon good grounde that the K: had anie intencion to assyst Fitsemorris with his forces in th'invasion of the realme of Ireland, I should then vse the rounder spech; because I had hard nothing of my messenger I thought best for my discharge to take the other course, allthough I would have ben verie glade to haue usyd a harder phrase yf so I might have done with my dewty to your Ma^{ty}. Yt is sayd that the French faction yn Genes hath sent lately to the K: for succor, and the matter here is put ouer from the K: to Q: mother, and from Q: mother to Monsieur. And thus I comitt your most excellent Ma^{ty} to the mercyfull tuicion of the Allmightie. From Towrs, the 22 of June 1577.

Your Majesty's most obedient and
faythfull Subiect.

Yt is said that Q: mother goeth to the K: of Nauarre. Aduertisements is given daylie of the comynge of the Reistres, and is said here that they attend onelye their mony coming out of England.

Monsieur ys thought to be yet at Yssorye, and here of grewe many opinions, whereof some are so strange as I dare not recyte them, but there ys something behind which dothe not yet appere.

Where motion is in my lettres that the K: myslyketh with the support of his rebels in England, no doubte he dyd intende yt of those that passyd that waye of late towards Rochell, but I thought good to passe it ouer with silence. England is much fearyd by sea and by land. It is easy to see that : 46: wilbe verie tractable if it be well handled.

Yt is sayd that the Kinge of Nauarre hath written earnestly to the K: in the favor of the yong D. of Nemoures, and is thought they will not be in hast to putt him to death, but he remayneth styll

in the hands of his enymyes. Yf Yssory had not troubled the enymie, some thinke that Rochell had ben beseiged before this tyme.

TO MY L: TRESORER.

Yt maye please your good Lordship to geue me leaue to referre you aswell for my late negociacions with the K: as for other the occurants of these partes to my lettres addressed here with all to hir Ma^{ty}, not doubting but that the same wilbe imparted vnto your Lordship. I have ben credibly informed of late that William Rouswell ys in great hope of recouery, and yet I thanke your Lordship most humbly ones againe for your frindly or rather fatherly frindshippe towards me towching the wardeshipp of [his] sister, which I will not fayle to acknowledg towards your Lordship with all seruice that maye lye within my lytle power durynge my lyfe, as knoweth the Allmightie, who allwayes preserue your good Lordship. From Tours, &c.

TO MY L. OF SUSSEX.

My very good L: I thanke your Lordship most humbly for your courteous lettres, and doe receaue them as a pledge of your good favor towards me, the continueance wherof as I desier greatly, so it maye please your Lordship to accompt of me as of one that is wholye att your comandement. I have troubyld her Ma^{ty} with a long discourse of my negociacions with the French K: and of the other occurants of these partes, and doe not doubt but that the same wylbe imparted to your Lordship. Good my Lord, be carefull of God's church, and lett it not want your good helpe in this extremitie.

I am not acquainted with the doings of England att home or abroade, but this is most certayne that France neuer feared hir Ma^{ty} more then att this presente. God graunte she make her profitt of it

aswell for her presente quietnes as for the [more] suerty here after. And thus I comitt your good Lordship to the mercyfull tuicion of the Allmightye. Tours, the 22 of June 1577.

TO MR SECRETARY WALSINGHAM.

Yt maye please your Honor to receiue inclosyd herein the copie of my lettres to her Ma^{ty}, and now I must craue your fryndely favor towards me yf her Highnes shall thinke that I haue ben more importunate with the French K: then was convenient, wherein I respected first and especially the aduancement of her Ma^{ty} service, and then the blame which might be imputed vnto me if my negligence should giue matter of excuse to the French K: in his vnfrindly accions against her Highnes yf anie such were intended by him.

My lettres to her Ma^{ty} make mention only of v^e slayne att the assault of Yssorie, but many here doe beleve that the number is double. The towne is consumed to ashes, of dispyte (no doubt) for the great slaughter that was there comitted.

Although I have receauyd no comendacions from your Honour to Madam de Caillacq, yet I haue presumed to doe them, from whom I haue recaieued these lettres inclosyd for ane S^r Jerome Bowes.

I fynd it very strange that Jhon Tupper is not yet retornyd, wherein suerly I have done my vttermost indeuour, and therefore shall pray you to defend me yf the contrarie shalbe conceiued of me. I feare least he be staied, and that the Q: mother's chaleng proceedith hereof.

M^r Jacomo hath ben aduertised by a good freind out of England, and hath acquainted me with his lettres that the matter of his pencion ys clerely dashed, which hath troubled him very much, and hath wrought great passions in him; he hath sayd that he seeyth his contrymen preferred here for shorte and slender service, and he hath servid now vii yeares and can gett no stay of lyvinge, that he hath nothing butt words in steed of payment, that he must lyue and care howe to lyue, and much more lyke matter which I was sorye

and affrayde to here. The belly hathe no cares as the French man sayeth, and necessitie hath no lawe. He maye not depart from me for many causes of great importaunce vntyll the peace shalbe concluded, and therefore I vsyd all good meanes to satysfie him. He concludyd with me that he referryd him self wholie to my will, and that yf it weare not for the especyall good will he beareth vnto me and for the great favor which he fyndeth att my hands, he would retorne to my Lord of Leycester and desier leaue to provide for him self. Yt may please your Honour to consider of him, and suerly in reason and pollecy he must be satisfied. Besides his intertaynement here, I woulde be glad to giue him xx^l by the yere to be paide vnto him in England duringe my aboad here, and would wishe that my Lord of Leycester would giue him other xx^l by the yere, and that it did appere vnto him that the whole came from my Lord of Leycester, vntyll the lyke may be procuered from the Q: You make more accompt in England of a pension of xl^l by the yeare then the matter is worth. I comend myself and my seruice here to your good favor &c.

To S^R JEROM BOWES.

Good S^r Jerom, This messenger departith so sodenly as I am constrained to leaue all my fryndes vnsaluted, & yet I could not forbear to accompanie these lettres from Madam Caillacq with these fewe lynes from my self. I cannot expresse vnto you how much I and my wyfe are beholding to this gentlewoman, and do thinke she loueth vs the better because she knoweth we loue you. I praye you maynetayne your creditt with her that my credytt may increase vnder your bannor. Beleue that I loue you, and so will doe for euer, and this is enowghe betwen you and me. Yf I should begin to wryte of newes there would be no end, and my hast att this tyme will not permitt many words. God keepe you in health, and grante vs well to meet againe att his good pleasure! From Tours, &c.

TO M^R SECRETARY WALSINGHAM.

Yt maye please your Honor to give me leaue to refer you for the state of things here to the reporte of this bearer, whose declaracion by mouth shalbe more effectuall then if the same were sett downe in wryting. The Reistres are expectyd and fearyd, and towards their levy haue receauyd already from her Ma^{tie} 60000 angells as the King ys informed. Camylls fero was dispatched from the court in post towards the frontiers the xxth of this present.

The Ambassador for the Pope hath ben sent for of purpose by a curryer to come to the Courte, and is departed from hens this morning. I praye God it be not for conferance touching Fytzmorris.

It shall appere vnto your Honor that this bearrer hath vsyd great dilligence, most humbly praying you to retorne hym againe vnto me assone as you may, because I may ill spare him.

Yt is now evident that Q: Mother's challendge towching my messenger was grounded only uppon sum suspicions, who had ben of lykelyhoode aduertised that I had sent some abrooad but she could not tell whether, as indeede no other man lyving is acquainted with the voyages of my messengers then the messengers themselves.

The newes of Reistres are verie whotte, whoe are said to be 20000 horsemen. Yt is said the K: retournythe to Chenonceau. Som saye that Lansacq's shippes haue ben beaten of late. Yf the Reistres may not be avoyded yt may be fearid least these great preparations by sea will not be ydle. And thus I &c. Tours.

TO M^R NYCHOLAS WADHAM.

My good brother, I doe not doubt but that my lettres wilbe allwaies wellcome vnto you, and suerly it is not for want of good will that you doe not recaieue them more often, but I doe not thinke you

to be envyous of our French newes, and this contrey yeldeth no other matter. You must beleaue that I wilbe allwaies ready and willing to doe in all things the offices of a good frinde towards you, and you shall not be decaied. The constant hope which I haue conceived of our meting againe is stronge inoughe in me not only to norryshe our former frindshippe, but allso to increase it if it weare possyble. One yeare is allready spent sythence my departure from you; and yet one yere more, and then I will beginne to harken for a successor. Our meeting wilbe with the greater joye because we haue ben thus long devyded, and our long absence wilbe recompensed with our long continewance togethers hereafter; which God graunte if it be his good pleasure! I repose my trust espetiallie in you for the leasing of my Parke of Marshwood, and am not ignorant that this matter wilbe troblesome and paynfull vnto you. But I am perswadid that your travells for Amyas Pawlett will not be grevous vnto you. And lyke as I knowe you will deale for me aswell herein as in all other things as for your self, so I praye you to thinke that I will allow of all your doings as if I had done them my self. I pray you comend me most hartely to my good ffather Wadham, and tell him I trust to be so happie to se him againe in Meryfilde. My lyke comendacions maye not be forgotten to my good sister your wyfe, with as manie thanks as I cann giue vnto you & her both for your frindly care of the yong M^r Rouswell. I haue no great hope to be hable aslonge as I lyue to doe you the lyke pleasure, but you may be sure to vse me to the vttermost of my lyttel power. My syster must looke to heare manie strange stories from my wife if God giue her leaue to see England againe, and in this meane tyme she desyereth to be most hartely comended to her father, brother, and sister at Merifeild. And thus I comitt you, my good brother, to the mercyfull tuicion of the Allmightie. From Tours, &c.

TO M^R SECRETARY WALSINGHAM.

Yt maye please your Honour to receaue inclosyd herein the cōpye of a lettre wryten not long sythens by the French Ambassador in England to a gentleman of this Court, thinkeing the same to be the more worthy of consideracion because it is addressed to one that hath good creditt with the King, and it is trewe that the King accompanied only with Mons^r Chyuerny went secretly from Bloys to see him in his owne howse distant from Blois tenne leagues, where he laye syke att that tyme. This copie is very ill written, and therefore; to avoyd your labor and losse of tyme in the reading, I have made an other cōpye which I allso send here with all, and yet there are some words which passe my conning. I remember that when the French Ambassador's secretarye was here with me he had some speach of a French captain whoe was prisoner in Englande, and founde it very strange that he could not be deliuered, and because it maye seme by this copie that their is some practise in hand towching this captain I have thought it agreable with my dewty to send the same vnto you with all convenient speede. Forasmuch as the Court was farr hence I would not staye Jhon Tupper vntyll I might provide him of a pasporte, not doubting but that his acquaintance in this contrey will giue him free passage allthoughe he have no pasporte att all, and yet to be the better assuured I haue thought good to send inclosed herein a note of such things as he learnyd in his jorney.

Yt is said that Monsieur is att the seige of Maruhes (if I do not mystake the name, a towne distant from Yssoire xvij leagues towards Languedocq).

Some saye that the towne of Nysmes doth treat of composicion with Dampville.

The King came to Chasteleraulx the xxiiijth of this presente, and is thought that he will remaine there xiiij dayes. Yt is affirmed by some that were present at the seige of Yssoire that the number of

gentlemen and men bearing charge hurt and slayne their, is greater then of those of lyke quality hurt and slayne at the seige of Rochell.

Petronzzi Abbott of ys arryuyd here lately from the Duke of Florence to aduertise the byrthe of their yong Prince; and here with all is said to bring great profers from the said Duke in men and money towards the maintenance of this Ciuill warre, and some saye that the Pope besydes his 50000 crownes will allso send ayd of men to withstand the Reisters. And thus I leaue to trouble your Honor, comytting you to the mercyfull protection of the Allmightie. Tours, the &c.

TO MY L: TRESORER.

Yt maye please your good Lordship to peruse this copie inclosed, having sent the lyke by this bearer to Mr. Walsingham, referring the consideracion of the same to your Lordship's better judgment. It may seme that their is some practise in hande touching the French captain, and therefore I thought yt agreable with my dewty to send this copie with all convenient speed, and the rather because the Secretary to the French Ambassador in his comunicacion with me at his late beinge here, &c.

Yt is said that Mons^r is at the seige of Maeuzes (yf I doe not mystake the name) a towne distant from Yssoire xvij leagues or thereabouts towards Languedocq.

Som sayeth that Nismes in Languedocq treatyth of composition with Dampville. The King came to Chasteleraut the xxiiijth of this present, and is thought he will remayne their xiiij dayes. Yt is affirmed by some whoe were *testes oculares* that the number of gentlemen and men bearing chardge hurt and slayne at the seige of Yssorie is greater then of those of lyke qualitie hurt and slayne att the seige of Rochelle. Petronzy Abbott of ys arriued here from the Duke of Florence to aduertise the birth of the yonge Prince, and here with all is said to bring great profers from the said Duke in men and mony towards the maintenance of this Ciuill

warre, and som say that the Pope besyds his 50000 crownes will allso send ayd to withstand the Restres. I know no other thinge worthy of aduertisment at this presente. And thus &c.

TO MR SECRETARY WALSINGHAM.

Yt may please your Honour to be aduertised that Mons^r, being perswadid that the bloody and fiery flame of Yssoire would moue their neighbours to submission, marched with his armie towards Maruyes, wher th'inhabitants being resoluid to obayde all extremities, Monsieur thought good to leaue them in peace, and nowe marchyth by easy journeyes towards Perigueulx, but to what intent is not yet knowne, his armie being so weakened with the losse before Yssoire and by the retyer of great numbers of gentlemen, some to the court, and some to their houses, as some thinke he doth not intend to take anie newe enterprise in hand vntill he hath spoken with the King; and some worthie of creditt haue assuryd me that Monsieur hath not at this presente 2000 men in his armye.

The D. of Guyse cam hether in post from the campe the iiijth of these presente, and is said he goeth very shortely into Champaigne accompanied with Chamberge and others.

The D. of Mayne hath done no great thinge before Brouage, and some thinke that he hath no hope of better speed there, the Cardynall of Guyse haueing said openly of late that the Englishe men arme by sea and intend to com to Rochell, and that he doubted of his nephewe the D. of Mayne, wishing that he were retyered from thence. Those of Rochell haue ben said to be stronger on the seas then the King, so as Lansacq hath prayed ayde of shippes and men: but it is now said that he hath receaiued of latte great supplies of men and shippes, and those of Rochell are the weaker, and that their shippes are retyered to Rochell. Yf Lansacq maye haue liberty to come with his shippes quietly to Brouage, it is doubttyd least that peace wilbe in daunger.

Mons' Strossy was sent by the D. of Mayne with a supplie of men to the yong Lansacq, and in his retorne passing nere Ryon, La Guysche desierd to refreshe himself in a village of his owne inheritance, where the said Guysche and Caylus, twoe of the King's best belouyd, were taken in their bedds by those of Ryon, so as the late takeing of the sonne of the D: of Nemours ys thought to be sufficiently recompenced. The yonge Carrouges, and Condracq leiftenant to La Guysche, are allso slayne by a lytle surprise. Paleseau Capⁿ of 50 men att armes, Apremont one of the Escuyig to Q. mother, and others, being loged with their troupes fouer or fyue leagues from S^t Jean d'Angelye the thirde of this presente, those of the towne yssued out vppon them in the night, slowe their watche, entyred their vyllage, founde those companies sleaping in their beds, and their killed the said Paleseau, Apremont, and all their followers, savinge some feaw, which were taken prisoners, of which number were Montigny, Serylacq, and S^m Colombe. The horses of this companye are estemyd to be of great value.

Mons' D'Alam, otherwise called Compt of Fawkenberg, cam hether Ambassador from Don John the iiijth of this presente in post, accompanied only with v or vi gentlemen, of whose negociacions I canne learne no certentie, the doings here being (no doubt) with such secrecy as manie great councellors are lytle acquainted with their doings. But theire is an opinion conceauyd that this Ambassador comith to informe the King that the Prince of Orenge begineth to arme, that he is secretly supported by many of the Estats of that contrey, that Ansterdam is in perill to be lost, that D. John shalbe constrayned to vse the helpe of forrayne forces, and therefore prayeth that the King will not be jealous of his preparacions, that the Spaniards latelye departed maye haue free passage [through] the contreys of the French King to retorne into the Lowe Contreyes yf need so requier, and if the Prince of Orenge or his confederates shall vppon anie surmise desier the King's ayde and favor that he will reiect all rebells to the King of Spayne his good brother and alye. The D.

of Guyse hath resorted to the Ambassador at two sondrye tymes in his lodging, and therefore I feare there be some worse matter in hande. This Ambassador hath had many audiences, and (as I here) sometymes by the procuerment of the King.

The treaty of Peace holdyth betwen the King and the [King] of Nauarre, Villeroy being arryued here from the said King of Nauarre the iiijth of this presente with the Articles of his demands, and is now vppon the pointe to be dispatched againe vnto him. The demaundes of the King of Nauarre are said to be to this effect :—That the exercyse of religion be admitted in all prouinces, gouernments, townes, castles, burgs, villages, and other places thoroughout the realme, and in the houses of all gentlemen that will desier yt, excepting only those townes in the which are Courts of Parliament, Archbysshoppys, and bearing the tytle Byshoppykes.

That him self be restored to the full and peaceable possession of his gouernment in Guynne, and that the towne of Angoulein be delivered vnto him for his place of residence.

That the Prince of Condé be lyke wise restord to his gouernment in Pycardy, and that the towne of Peronne be deliuerede vnto him for his residence. That the *chambres myparties* be clearely released, and in steed thereof those of the Religion to haue their recourse in causes of controuersy to [the] Great Counsell.

The King is incensyd to warre many wayes, and espetially by the Pope's nuntio and Petronzzi ambassador from the D. of Florence, whoe are sayd to contribute very lyberally in men and mony.

Yf anie great thing were done in Languedocq, the King would be the first that would reveale it to the Ambassadors.

The emulation is great whoe shall comaunde in this army against the Reistres, and perchannce some matter may follow of yt.

I haue not yet sent your lettres, and haue no great hope to send them.

The discourse inclosed wyll partely decipher vnto you the presente

state of the King of Nauarre and his followers, wherin no mention is made of Rochell, St Jean d'Angely, Brouage, Pontz, Ryon, and some other things in those parts, neither of Languedocq.

I haue reducyd this discourse into so fewe wordes and short sentences, as I could not sett the same downe otherwys then in zipher, onlese I would discouer the matter, and I had rather be troublesome vnto your Honor with a long zipher then to hazard hir Ma^{ties} seruice, or to indaunger a good frind. You shall fynd that in this zipher I have confounded moodes, tenses, persons and numbers, therby to take as much helpe of my zipher as was possibele, but it shalbe easy for you to conceaue the sense.

TO MY L: TRESORER (*as before*).

The D: of Guyse sendyth his trayne before, and him self intendeth to departe from hence in post the xvth of this present, expecting the cominge hether of Mons^r in this meantyme. And thus resting att your Lordship's comandment, I comitt you to the protection of the Allmightie, whoe allwaies preserue your good Lordshipp. From Poiecters, the xth of July 1577.

TO MR SECRETARIE WALSINGHAM.

I canne not thanke your Honour inoughe for your lettres to M^r Jacomo, wherin you haue comfortyd him, and done me singuler pleasure; as tyme and occasion shall serue I trust you will haue me in remembraunce. This bearrer intendeth nothing lesse then to remayne here with me, whereof he hath not spoken one word, haueing resoluid to follow the D. of Guyse into Champaigne, as the twoe yonge Veares, Denny, seruant to the Erle of Oxford, and Walter Williams (whoe are nowe here) doe the lyke. This said bearer was resoluid to haue followed Dampville, and said no lesse to the gentlemen of my companie at his first aryuall, and before he had spoken with me, which prouith that he neuer ment to make his abode with

me. And thus bothe you and I are honestly discharged of this matter, thanks be to God.

TO THE EARLE OF LYNCOLNE.

My verie good Lord, Yt maye please your Lordship to hold me excused that I haue not troubled you more often with my lettres, and rather to impute the same to anie other thinge then to vnthankfullnes, and indeed [I] would be ashamid to be found guyltie of this faulte towards your Lordship, being no lesse bound vnto you for many singuler frindshippes and favors, then readie to acknowledg my dewty towards you with all the seruice that maye lye in me; and trusting that your Lordship hath this opinion of me, I will forbear to enter into any matter of excuse for the tyme past, and do not doubt to prouide so well for the tyme to come, as your Lordship shall haue no cause to condemne my slaknes. Allthough our doings here be bloody and violent of euery syde, yet we feare not to talke of peace, Mons^r Villeroy being lately retorned from the King of Nauarre with the Articles of his demaundes, and is now vpon the pointe to be dispatched towards him againe with the King's resolucion. The D. of Mayne is yet before Brouage, where he hath done [no ?] great harme, and no great hope reaceauyd here of anie better successe hereafter. Mons^r marchyth in the borders of Auvergne by small jorneyes, but with what resolucion I doe not certainly know. Manie braue cap^{tn} of the King's parte haue ben defeted of late, whereof some are slayne, as Paleseau, Apremont, La Chapelle, Carrouges and others, and Caylus, la Guysche, Montigny, Serylacq, S^{te} Colombe and others taken prisoners. The D. of Guyse is come to the Court in post, and from hens repaiereth to Champaigne. I will trouble your Lordship no farther att this presente, but restinge att your comandment do comitt your good Lordship to the mercyfull tuicion of the Allmightie. From Poictiers, the xth of Iulye 1577.

TO THE ERLE OF SUSSEX.

My very good Lord, This badd worlde and the bad disposicion of the parts of the world will not permitt me to writte vnto your Lordship of anie other matter then suche as nowe longe sythens you have bene accustomed to receaue from me, our actions here tending only to murder and all other kind of bloody violence. The D. of Guyse is retornyd from the campe, and goethe shortely into Champaigne. Mons^r hath attempted no newe things of late, and some saye he cometh shortely to the Court. Those of the King's partie haue ben defeated of late in diueres places, and manie of good calling slaine, other taken prisoners. Paleseau, Apremont, the yonge Carrouges, La Chapelle, and Condracq are of the number of the deade ; Caylus, La Guyse, Montigny, Serelacq, and S^m Colombe are said to be prisoners. The D. of Mayne is yet before Brouage, and now lokethe for the yong Lansacq to come thether with his shippes, whoe is now said to be stronge on the seas. Mons^r de Villeroy is returned of late from the King of Nauarre, and shalbe sent againe vnto him very shortly. The King is incensed to this warre out of manie parts, whoe vnder the cloke of good amitie seeke nothing more then his vtter ruyne and distroction. I will trouble your Lordship no farther at this tyme, comitting your good Lordship to the mercyfull tuicion of the Allmightie, &c.

TO M^R TREASURER.

Your Honor hath good cause to thinke that either your last lettres founde a lewde messenger, or were sent to some vngreatfull fellowe ; wherein I must excuse the bearer, and would allso excuse my self yf I did not thinke you were so well perswaded of my poore good will as your good opinion of me would suffice to excuse me without any farther process ; most humbly praying you to conceaue thus of me

that, as I am and wilbe alwayes ready to acknowledg my deuty towards you in greater matters vppon anie occasion occuring, so I wilbe no lesse willing to trouble you with my lettres as often as I maye, and when I fayle to doe it it maye please your Honor to impute the same rather to any other thinge then to my slouthfullnes or vnthankfullnes. Our beginnings and proceedings herevnto are such as I cannot see howe anye good canne insewe. All the miserable accidents of warre are daylie practised, burning, killing, and consuming of townes and contreys. The armyes on land haue not ben ydle, and nowe the army on the seas groweth to be stronge. The D. of Mayne hath done no great thinge before Brouage, neither doe I here that Mons^r hath attempted anye thing of late. The D. of Guyse is repaired to the court, and goeth shortly into Champagne. Poore Engleand is much slandered, being openly affirmed that her Ma^{ty} giueth ayde of men and mony. The King hath lost manie of his captains of late; of which nomber Paleseau, Apremont, Carrouges, La Chapelle, and others are slayne; Caylus, Montignye, Serylacq, S^{re} Colombe, and others are taken prisoners. Yt is yet vncertayne what course the King will take, some saye to Parris, som saye to Coignac. The tyme groweth to be quicke, and will yeld great store of matter, whereof you shalbe assueryd to haue your parte. And thus I comitt your Honor to the tuic'on of the Almightye. From Poiectiers, the xth of Julie 1577.

TO M^R HENAGE.

Sir, You haue forbydden me by your lettres to vse you with anie ceremonies, and therefore making accompte of you as of my good & assuured frind, I wryte and forbear to wryte as tyme and occasion wyll permitt me, and when I wryte nothing am as well affected towards you as yf I did wryte longe lettres. There is no end of our troubles here, where nothing is omitted that maye bringe this noble realme to ruyne and distruction. Townes are burnt and consumed

dayly, & whole provinces are spoyled ; mony and munitions are spent on euery syde, and to speake nothinge of the comon souldier those of the nobyllitie are slayne in great nombers ; and thus all these harmes fall vppon the King's souldiers, whose treatyth of peace, and to that purpose Mons^r Villeroy is retorned lately from the King of Nauarre, being now vppon the pointe to be sente vnto him againe. I doe not here that the D. of Mayne hath done anie great thinge before Brouage, as lyke wise Mons^r hath attempted no newe thinge of late that I can learne. Some of the King's company haue ben defeated of late besydes Rochell, where Paleseau, Apremont, and some others of good callinge haue ben slayne, & la Guysche, Caylus &c. prysoners.

TO M^R BEALE.

Sir, Your lettres of the vith of June sent by M^r Sydney were forgotten at Parris & came not to my hands vntyll the last of the same, & nowe I thanke you for them hartely, and you maye not condemne me althoughe you haue not hard frome me by my last messenger, wherein I will vse no excuse, because you knowe me very well, and then you must knowe me to be one that lovyth you aswell as any frinde you haue lyving. Yt is not strange in Englande to heare that good servants are slenderly rewardyd, and therefor I doe not maruill to vnderstand by your lettres that you are no better considered. You are not alone in this complainte. I would the Q: could spare your seruice there, and then I would wyshe you here with me to be my companion and counsellor in this journey, and doe praye you to thinke that not only here but in all other places where I shall chaunce to lyue, no frinde you haue lyvinge shall reioyce more or take greater comforte of your companie then Amias Pawlett. I am no straunger vnto you, and dare saye you are well perswaded of my good affection towards you, and yet you doe not knowe howe much your nature & are agreeable to my disposition. I trust to lyue longe to see you againe, and to be happie to se you often. You haue so

good meane to be acquainted with the newes of these parts as I will not trouble you with anie particularities. The D. of Guyse is retourned to the Court, & nowe vppon the pointe to be dispatched into Champaine, which importeth no great lykelyhoode of peace. Farewell, good M^r Beale, and accompt of one that is wholie yours, and vppon this promise I comitt you to the blessyd tuicion of the Almightye &c.

TO M^R DALE.

Sir, I feare you will condemne me for some vngreatefull fellow that my lettres come no sonner vnto you, wherin I will vse no excuse, and yet haue good hope that for the good experience you haue of this place you will hold me excused. Sometime my messengers departe very sodenly, somtyme I am cloyed with busynes, but I praye you thinke that I neuer want good will to remember so good a frinde.

Touching the newes of these parts there is great talke of peace, but no great appearance that anie good effect will followe. The D. of Guyse goeth into Champaigne, Mons^r marchyth his armye in the borders of Auvergne, the D. of Mayne styll before Brouage, daylie conflicts there & in other places, Caylus & la Guysche lately taken prysoners, Paleseau, Apremont & others slayne. Thus we spend our tyme in murder and mischyf, & in no great hope to doe better onleast God deale better with us then we deserue. Mons^r Villeroye is lately retornyd from the King of Nauarre, and now dispatched againe vnto him. A badd peace is better then this bloudy warre. God kepe you in health, & preserue our contrey in quietnes! From Poiectiers, the &c.

TO M^R WILKES.

Sir, Your honest and frindely lettres of the vith of June would have deserued a more speedy awnswere, but I trust you are so well perswaded of me, as you will impute yt rather to any thinge then to want of good will, and in deed you should doe me great wronge yf you should conceaue any such opinion of me. As I receaue your lettres very thankfully, so if I doe not answere them speedilie, you maye be bolde to thinke that the same proceedeth either of slownthfullnes or vnthankfullnes; yf you thinke me free of these faults, conceaue els what you will, and yet I knowe you will not conceaue amisse of me. I canne not thinke that anie good man can be gladde to here of the newes of these parts, where fyer and sworde kylleth and spoyleth without mercye. I heare of nothing done or attempted by Mons^r sythence the takeing of Yssorie. The Duke of Mayne wynnith little before Brouage. Yf anie great thing were done in Languedocq yt would not be hidden. Manie brave fellowes haue ben taken and slayne of latte; Paleseau, Apremont, La Chapelle, the yonge Carrouges, and manie others dead; Caylus, La Guyesche, Montigny, S^r Colombe & others prisoners. The D. of Guyes is retornyde to the Court, & goeth into Campaigne. What course the King will take is diversely reported. Great talke of peace, but no great lykelyhoode. And thus I comitt you, good M^r Wilkes, to the mercyfull tuicion of the Almyghtie. From Poiecters, &c.

TO M^R NICASIUS.

Sir, Yt is ynoughe and to much that I haue forborne thus longe to wryte vnto youe, and yet my latt dispatches haue ben sodiene, as I haue ben forcyd to leaue my best frinds vnsaluted, and now I wryte

vnto you rather to shewe my thankefullnes for your courteous and fryndly lettres, then for anie matter that I knowe worthy of wryting. Our troubles contynewe & no great hope of peace. Great losse of either syde, and the King alwayes the principall loser, whose bearyth the whole burthen of all this losse in townes, men, mony, and munitions. I know I should doe you no pleasure to trouble you with our partycularities, which indeed are such as a stranger woulde be sorie to heare them. Your sonne dothe well, and I loue him well, and I loue him the better because he hathe so good a father. And thus with most hartly comendacions I comitt you to the &c.

TO MR BETON.

Sir, I haue receyved your curteous lettre, and cannot thancke you ynoughe for the great favor which it hath pleased you to shewe to the poore Englishe prisoners, which I take to be done altogether for my sake, and will not fayle to acknowledge yt towards you and all your contrymen to the vttermost of my lytle power, and shall most hartelie praye you and them not to spare me in any thinge where my pore frindshipp in worde or deed may stande you in any steade. Yt had ben much and worthe of many thanks, yf you had done thus much att my earnest desyer, but to haue done it without my request deseruith more thanks than I am able to giue. I praye you onse againe to accompte of me as one that thinketh himself greatly beholding vnto you, and will not fayle to be revenged of this curtesie vppon the first occasion occurringe. I haue ben vnkindly vsed in this matter many wayes, wherin I haue no other remydie then patience, trustinge that these prisoners shalbe deliuered at the last, and doe not doubt but that my pore credytt shalbe able to doe the lyke pleasure to some of this nation. I haue written to the King's pculer (*sic*) to such effect, as shall appere by the copie of my said lettre which my seruante will shewe vnto you. I heare that my lord your brother is retorneyd to Parris in verie good health,

whereof I am gladd to heare as anie frinde he hath lyvinge, prayeing you to comend me most hartelie to his Lordship, whoe shoulde not be longe hens yf my wyshinge could [bring] him hether. And thus with my most hartye comendacions to your self, prayinge you to take occasion to make tryall of my thankefullnes, I comitt you (good M^r Beton) to the mercyfull tuicion of the Allmightye. From Poiecters.

—arrayed lately here sente one of his men vnto me to praye me to recomende some man vnto hym by lettres vnder my signe vnto whome he might be bolde to deale confidently in some matter concerninge the Q. my mystres, because he knowe me to be narrowly watched and durst not resorte vnto me, I sent M^r Jacomo vnto him, by whom, after some earnest and effectuell words of his faythfull devotion towards her Ma^{ty}, he prayed me to assure her that this Ambassador of Don John hath no other matter to this Court then to procure the King to make peace with his subiects at what [cost] soeuer, that the King of Spayne woulde doe the lyke in his contreyes, that this done the French King & King of Spayne had resolved to bend their forces againste her Ma^{ty}, that they had allready made their partage of Englande, Scottlande and Irelande, that they had secrett intelligence with two daungerous subiects, the Earle of Westmerland and Fytzmorrrys, that the Earle of Westmerlande for trewth was now in Irelande, that he had receaued of Don John for this voyage 4200 ducketts, that these men had greate intelligence in England, that the Realme was full of Papistes, that these *Papistes had fayer words in their mouthes but poysoned hartes towards her Ma^{ty}*, that he hath harde to these matters that the only waye to discouer the whole is to apprehend the Earle of Westmerland or Fytzmorris, that the meane to avoyde this daunger is to cast these troubles vppon Fraunce & Spayne, that the French King as was supposed would shortely send some gentleman to her Ma^{ty} to praye her to perswade peace in his contrey, that he should

haue secrett instructions for other purposes, that he must be lokyd vnto, that Q: mother had sayde vnto him that her matters here should fall oute well ynough, *yf the Q. of England woulde not be quiet, their was provision made to requite her*, and fynally that to performe this revenge theire were bothe men and women nere vnto her fytt for the purpose. I haue reducyd this discourse into as fewe words as is possyble, referringe the consideracion thereof to your Honor's wysdome.

TO M^R SECRETARY WALSINGHAM.

Yt maye please your Honor to be aduertised that, partlie desyringe to heare from you of the state of things in Englande, but especyallie being perswaded that you loke to heare often from me, althoughe I knowe nothings at this presente much worthy of aduertisemente, and that our actions here being wholly bent against Brouage, no great thinge hath ben done theire of latte, yet I thought yt agreable with my dewtye to dyspach this bearer with these fewe lynes, and in deed doe thinke it no lesse convenient for her Ma^{ty} to be aduertised when they doe nothings here as when they doe somewhat, therby to consider the better of their state in all things appertayninge.

The Kinge bendyth all his forces against Brouage, haveing now lately sent thether the Swysses which haue allwaies seruide to garde his person & shoulde be in nomber xii^e, beinge founde in their marchinge from hens to be only vi^e. or thearabouts. Mons^r Carsan, captain of one of the King's gardes, dothe conducte them, accompanied with some troupes of horsemen, and because these came not forthe as was promised the Swysses woulde not departe from the place of their first remoue vntyll their cominge, doubtinge to be intraped by those of S^t. Jean d'Angely as others had ben before. But they are gone forwards, and maye be arryued at Brouage the xxth of this presente.

The yonge Lansacq is said to be in the Chanell before Brouage

with xx shippes or thereabouts, haveing lost his gallyes in a storme which are not yet retornyd, so as the shippes of Rochell shall fynde this tyme very favorable yf they shalbe disposed to giue any battell by sea, the winde haueing serued very well of longe tyme aswell to this purpose, as to bringe the shippes out of the Lowe Contryes, which theye saye here are cominge to the ayde of Rochell. Theire is great expectacion in this Court of this siege of Brouage, and is thought assurydlie that onleast the same be wonne very shortely the Duke of Mayne wylbe engaged to the great perill of him self and his armye, being envyronnyd with badd neighbours of euery syde, and some say that La Noue prepareth forces in Gascoign and hath his rendes-vous to this purpose.

They holde them selues assuryd by such intelligence as they haue oute of Germanie that the Reistres cannot come into this contrey these two monethes and more; and therefore they are bolde to spend this tyme to their profitt at home, the D. of Guyse remayninge yet here, and their is mention of the King's departure from hens.

Dampville fearyth the conclusion of the Peace, and vndertakeyth to doe great things in Languedocq yf the King will contynewe his warre.

I cannott expresse vnto your Honour the yll opinion that is conceauid here generally of Englande, and therefore in this suspytious & daungerous tyme I dare not wryte vnto you so largelie as I would, referring you for the rest to the report of this bearer, whom it may please you to credit. And thus I comitt your Honor to the tuicion of the Almyghtie. From Poicters, the xix of Julie 1577.

TO MY L: OF LEYCESTER.

My verie good Lord, It maye please your Lordship to holde me excused that I haue not troubled you with my lettres of late; which hath not procedyd of no other cause then of your Lordship's absens from the court; and being now aduertised that the tyme of your

retorne doth approche, I would not fayle to acknowledge my dewty towards your Lordship by these fewe lynes, and by the same to aduertise you, that there is greate expectacion here of the seige of Brouage, and in deed there is no other matter in hande at this presente onthessyde Languedocq, where Dampuille promiseth great things, but the performans is reservyd to another tyme. There is nothing omytted that may serue to recouer Brouage; horsemen, footemen, and munitions sent thether dayly, and nowe lastlie the companies of Swysses which haue alwayes servid for the garde of the King's person, and some thinke that other companies resort thether from Mons^r. These preparacions serue to double purpose, fyrst to recouer Brouage yf yt be possyble, & if not, then to deliuer the D. of Mayne and his armye, whoe are thought to be dangerouslye engaged. Yt is affyrmed here that by foule weather the Gallies are devyded from Lansacq, whereof those of Rochell cannot be ignorant, and will not fayle to make their profitt of yt, yf their strength by sea be such as is reportyde, whereof dependith verie much or altogethers the swertye of Brouage. Manie doe thinke that their wilbe newes here verie shortely of this fyght by sea, or of some fyght by lande with the D. of Mayne.

I haue referryd som other things to the report of this [bearer,] whom it maye please your Lordship to credytt, and in deed if your Lordship did knowe the lyttle credytt that Englande hathe here at this presente you woulde not marvell to see my lettres so shorte.

Whereas your Lordship hath comandyd me to provyde you of fower fayer and . . . mulets for the lytter, I haue sent for them to Lyons by the helpe of a marchant of myne acquaintance, and am promised to haue the best and fayerest that are to be gotten, and that they shalbe brought to Tours or Bloyes before the last of this presente, ffrom whence they shalbe sent to your Lordship with all convenient speede. And thus resting att your Lordship's comandment, I comitt your good Lordship to the mercyfull tucion of the Almighty. Poict: &c:

TO THE EARLE OF WARWICKE.

My very good Lord, I thinke the tyme verie longe that your Lordship hath ben troubled with my lettres, wherein I would not haue fayled to haue acknowledged my dewtyfull good will towards you yf your Lordship had ben present at the Court, and now beinge aduertised that the tyme of your retourne doth approche I will also retorne to my accustomed manner, and will permit no messenger to passe without some lynes for your Lordship. I haue no newe matter whereof to aduertise your Lordship at this presente, because there is no other thinge in hand here then the siege of Brouage, where there is nothing done of late to the King's aduantage; great preparacions are made to recouer this pece, and to this purpose the King dothe not forbear to sende thether the Swysses appointed for the garde of his person. There is great expectacion here of some fyght that wilbe made by sea betwene the yonge Lansacq and those of Rochell. I here nothing out of Languedocq, where yf Dampuille had done anie great thinge the matter would not be kept secrett. Mons' is lokyd for daylie, whose army hath attempted no newe thinge sythens the wyunning of Yssoire. I trust by my next lettres to aduertise your Lordship of some better matter, and vppon this hope I comitt your good Lordship to the protection of the Allmightie, &c.

TO MY L. TREASURER.

My very good Lord, I thinke the tyme very longe sythens I hard out of England, and doe not doubt but that her Ma^{tie} dothe lyke to here often from me in this troublesome tyme, and therefore haue dyspatched this bearer with these fewe lynes, haueing referrid some other matters to his reporte. Wherein it maye please your Lordship to giue him credit. The King sendeth horsemen, footemen and munitions daylie to Brouage, and nowe the fower companies of Swysses appointed for the garde of his person are gone thether,

which shall serue to recouer Brouage yf it maye be, or att the least to disgage the D. of Mayne, whoe is thought to be invyroned with daungerous neighbours. This matter is thought to depend verie much of the good or badd speede of the yong Lansacq by sea, wherein God hath provided fauorably for those of Rochell, if they haue any forces to bydd him battelle, his gallies being devided from him by fowle weather as is reported, and are not yet retournyd vnto him. Mons^r hath ben longe expected here, and is nowe lokyd for certainly the xxth of this presente, att which tyme it is also thought that Villeroy wilbe retornyd from the King of Nauarre, and some thinke with a full conclusion of Peace. I doe not heare of any thinge done in Languedocq of late. And thus I leaue to trouble your Lordship any farther, comytting you to the mercyfull protection of the Allmighty, whoe alwaies preserue your good Lordship. From Poiecters, the xixth of Julie 1577.

TO M^R ARGALL.

M^r Argall, Lyke as I am ignorant that you haue spoken vnfrindly of me, so I am no lesse assuured that your euill speache hath not greatly hurt me, & therefore receiued your lettres the more willingly. I have learnyd long sithens that a friende be he neuer so pore maye be sometymes profitable, but an enymie yf he able to doe no hurt, yet he canne doe no good. I must confesse that my fryndeshipp coulde stand you in no steade att all, and I may saye as trewly that you could haue no great hope to make any great profitt of my disfrindshippe; and yet I cannott tell howe, when vppon your retorne into England I lokyd to take some comfort of the frindeshippe between us, I receauyd nothing from you but ill reports and vnfrindly vsage. I must tell you, and it is trewe, that you canne pretend no iust cause of this quarrell, when departinge from me my very good frinde in owtward apparance, you cannott proue that I offended you after your departure. Yf you will saye that I vsyd

you vnkindly in refuseing your brother, I may trewely answere that this quarrell is ill groundyd. First, it were verie harde and against all reason that my frinde should be angrey because I had refused a seruant of his owne choise; althoughe in some causes he maye conceaue itt vnkindlye, yet yt were a badd grounde to make a good quarrell. Secondly, I refusyd your brother before I knewe him, and would enter into your house but with condycion that you would moue me no more for him. Thirdly, you tolde me [at] Parris that you considered of my great trayne and would moue me no more for your brother, and this you did of your mocion without vsing any farther speche in this matter. Lastly, if all this were nothinge, as no one jote of it is ontrewed, your departure from me with good satisfaction to my knowledge doth barre you from all quarrells for the tyme past. You must giue me leaue to saye somewhat, and in deede I maye boldly saye verie much, as one that knoweth him self to be clere towards you aswell in honestie as in conscience. Touching your brother I neuer conceaued yll opinion of him, I wyshe verie well vnto him, I thinke him well worthy of good preferment, and I saye trewlie and faythfullie that I did not refuse him because I had anie myslyke of him, or because I was already ouercharged, but because I knowe for other respects his aboade with me had ben vnmeete aswell for him as for me. For anie thinge that hath passyd betwene you and any of my servants in England, althoughe I maye saye trewly that they haue done nothinge by my commandement, yet I must confesse vnto you I cannott much blame that seruant that caryth lytle for his master's enymies. To conclude, lyke as your lettres are very frindlye, your profers of frindeshippe very great, your promises of performans verie liberall, and altogether semyth to proceed from a sounde & willing mynde, so I doe thankfullie accept the same. I forgett willinglie all that is past. I accompt of you as of my good frinde, and wilbe the same towards you to the best of my power. And thus I comitt you to the protection of the Allmighty. From Poiecters, the xixth of July 1577.

TO M^r WALSINGHAM.

Yt maye please your Honor to be aduertised that Mons^r arryued here the xixth of this presente, whom the Kinge, folowed by the D. of Guyse, the Prince Daulphin, and all the nobyllytie of his Court, received half a myle out of the towne. Th'ambassador of Venice had his audyence the next daye being the xxith, so as none remayned besydes my self but the Ambassador of Toskaine, whoe had allso demandyd his audience the said xxith. And therefore being as vnwillinge to be the first as loth to be the last, and here withall somewhat curyous to deale in these matters of congratulacion, aswell because I haue no expresse comandement to this purpose, as also for some myslyke I haue of the subiect, wherein I maye hardlie deale with that roundenes and sincerytie that I coulde wyshe, I considered that, althoughe there were no other cause, yet in respect of the longe absens of Mons^r from the Court I coulde doe no lesse then to congratulate his safe arryuall, and therefore desyering audience the xxith I was appointed to make my repaier to his lodging adioyning to the Court the xxijth. I declared vnto him that it was not for want of consideracion of my dewtye that I had not desiered to haue accesse vnto his Highnes before that tyme, and did most humblie praye him to beleue that no Ambassador in this towne resortyd vnto him with better will, but I considered that he had ben a stranger to the Courte of longe tyme, and did thinke that I shoulde doe him great wronge to seeke anie occasion so sodenly after his arryuall to drawe him from the companie of the Kinge his brother, the Q: his mother, and so manie others his good seruants and frinds, and therefore doubteinge to be troublesom haue forborne to com soner vnto him. I tolde him I coulde not be ignorant of his good successe in his late interprises, and lyke as, for the good and sincere amitie between the Q: my Soueraigne and him, her Ma^{tie} wysbeth vnto him all honor and felicitie, so it could not

be but that she did participate with him in all his prosperities, and dyd not doubt but that he was so perswaded of hir Highnes. I addyd that trewe yt is that he had done great services of late vnto the King his brother, but in my opinion one principall point of seruice was yet behind, wherein he had meanes aboue all others to doe his brother better seruice then in any other thinge in this world, and this was to procure a good peace betwen the King and his subiects. That besydes the fydeltie which he ought vnto the King his brother, his own particular interest was sufficient to moue him to doe his vttermost indeuor herein; that no man could tell yf God had appointed that this Crowne should one daye fall on his head, that then he should fynd that the townes which haue ben sackyd and spoyled are his townes, that the people which haue ben kylled and murdered are his subiects, that the mony which hath ben spent & consumyd is his treasure, that the cuntreys which lye wasted and forsaken are parcell of his kingdome, and fynally that the whole burthen of all those myseries and calamities will light on his shouldiers. I tolde him I was the more bolde to moue him herein because it had pleased him to saye vnto me before this tyme that he would not fayle to imploye all his meanes possible to make peace betwene the King and his subiects. I concludyd that I referred the whole to the goodnes of God and to his wisdom. Mons^r answerid that there was no cause to excuse my slake cominge vnto him, which proceded rather of my curtesye then of anie dewtie; that he doubtyd nothing of her Ma^{tes} good affection towards him; that she had deserued very well of him; that he was ready to acknowledge yt to the best of his power; that he made a singuler and especyall accompt of her frindeshippe; that he beleuyd nothing more then that her Ma^{tes} would reioyse with him in all his prosperities; that his good furtherance shoulde not want to pacyfie the troubles; that he was not ignorant of the miseries and calamyties which ensewed thereof; that the King his brother and the Queen his mother were well affectyd to peace, and that of his parte his vttermost indeuor should not want to procure

it. I replied that I was verie gladd to receaue this awnswere from his owne mouth, and that I was not a lytle comforted, aswell to vnderstand his good affection towards the Queen my mysteris, as that he was so well inclyned to the peace of his contrey, where of I would not fayle to make trewe reporte. He prayed me to assure her Ma^{ty} of the one & the other, and also not to spare him in anie thing wherein he might doe me anie particuler playsir.

The Duke of Neuers ys yet att Lyneages, from whence some thinke he shall march towards Champaigne, his army consisting at this presente of 800 lanche knights, 500 French harquebusiers, and some small troupes of horsemen. Yt was intended that he shoulde haue beseiged Bryve la Gaillarde and Usarche in Lymosin, and towards the seige of these townes those of Lynnigs and their neighbours proferyd 40000 frankes, which being solycited by the Duke and accepted by the Kinge, it is now sayde that the Duke of Neuers repentith his bargayne and would exact a greater some of monye of the people, which is refused, so as what will follow here of is vncertain.

Mons^r Lansacq cam from the King's chamber into the base court the xxiiith of this presente, where he said openly in the presence of manie that he was comanded by the King to signifie to such of his nobilitie as desiered to breake a speare for the honour of their master, and loue of their contrey, that they should doe well to resorte to the Duke of Mayne, where they should finde the Prince of Condé in the feilde ready to receaue them; he added that with helpe of the Swysses (whoe (saith he) wilbe this night at Xaintes) and of such others as are appointed to resort thether, the Duke of Mayne dothe assuer him self to take Brouage at the next assault. He hath done well to appointe no certayne tyme when this assault shalbe giuen. The Swysses departyd from hence the xth of this presente, so as your Honour may perceauie by the slowe marching how the worlde goeth in those parts. Yt is thought assueredly that the Duke of Mayne will leauy his siege before the last of this

presentes, and some thinke that the sodeine departure of the D. of Guyse from hence towards Champaigne the xxth of this moneth procedid not so much of the hastie cominge of the Reisters, as to giue some color to his brother the D. of Mayne to retyer him self out of those parts, as yf he were pressyd there vnto by the Reistres. Yt may seme that the D. of Mayne is thought to be in som distres, and that he shalbe constrayned to fight, the D. of Mercure being dispatched from hence towards him with as manie gentlemen as his creditt and the comaundment of the King & Queen Mother are able to gett out of this Court, and it is certayne that the King hath said that if anie man did excuse him self for wante of horses, he shoulde be provided out of his owne stable.

Dampvile is said to vse such crueltye in Langvedocq as he groweth to be odious even to those of his owne partie, and feareth nothing more then the Peace.

Yt is thought the King will retourne towards Parris very shortlye.

I haue ben forcyd to send my Sonne vnto your Honour with this packett, being vnprovyded at this tyme of anie other vnto whome I would comitt such matter as he hathe to report vnto you, onleasse I woulde disfurnysh my self of such as I may in no wise spare, most humbly [praying] you to retorne my said Sonne againe vnto me assone as you maye because he dothe me some seruice here. Yt is [so] long sythens I harde from you that I doubte much least some of your messengers or myne are fallen into some badd hands, and therefore I feare to comitt any thing to zipher before I here ons againe from you. And thus I comitt your Honour to the mercyfull tuicion of the Allmightie. From Poiectiers, the 28th of July.

TO MY L. ADMIRALL.

My verie good Lord, I trouble your Lordship with these fewe lynes only to dischargd my dewty, haueing learned of late no newe thinge worthy of aduertisements, the army of Mons^r havinge attempted

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no newe thinge of late, and the D: of Mayne hath done no greate thinge before Brouage. The Prince of Condie is sayd to haue vnshipped his forces by sea, and to be nowe in the feilde, and some thincke that La Noue is not fare from those parts, and then it is likely that some newe thinge wilbe done verie shortlie. The nobilitie of this courte is exhorted from the Kinge to resort to the D. of Mayne, and are put in hope that Brouage will be wonne at the next assault, but this comfort remayneth that there is no tyme apointed when this assault shalbe giuen. The D. of Guyse is gone towards Champaigne to provide for the Reisters. Mons^r is there now with the King his brother, and (as is thought) will not departe from him vntyl he goe into Champaigne. The vij c Swysses of the King's gardes which departed from hence for the succor of the D. of Mayne haue marched in suche feare as some doubt yf they be yet arryved, but it is certayne that the xijth daye after their departure from hence they were not arryved at Xaintes. This is all that I knowe worthie of your Lordship at this presente. And thus most humblie take my leave, beseechinge God long to preserve your good Lordship. From Poictieres, the 28 of July 1577.

TO THE EARLE OF WARWICKE.

My verie good Lord, There are no other doings here in hande then before Brouage, where they seme to be wearie of that they haue donne, and some thincke the seige wilbe levyed verie shortly. The Prince of Condie is said to be in the feild, and the nobilitie of this Court is exhorted to resorte to the D: of Mayne for the better recoverie of Brouage, as it is given out, but some thincke it is to disgage the D. of Mayne, who is invyroned with dangerous enemies. The D. of Guyse departed from hence towards Champaigne the xxiith of this present, and some thincke the King will not remayne longe in these partes. Cap^{tn} Merle is said to be in the feild in Auvergne sithence the departure of Mouns^r. The D. of Nevers is at

Limoges with so much of Mouns^r armie as remayneth, which is no great matter. There cometh nothinge out of Languedoc that soundeth muche eyther to the advantage of the King or to the honor of Dampvill. I knowe no other matter worthie of your Lordship at this tyme present. And thus I comitt &c

TO M^R TRESORER.

My verie good Lord, Yt maye please your Lordship to be content with these fewe lynes, and to giue me leaue to referr you for the rest to this copie inclosed of my lettres to M^r Walsingham, this bearer havinge also other particularities to saye vnto your Lordship by mouth, whom it maye please you to credit. I trust your Lordship dothe accompt of me as of one that is wholie att your comandement, and so maye be assuryd to fynde me where my seruice my stand you in anie steed. And thus I comitt your good Lordship to the protection of the Allmightie. From Poiecters &c

TO MY L: OF SUSSEX.

My verie good L: Although I knowe your Lordship cannot be ignorant of my aduertisements to M^r Walsingham, yet I could not be satysfied onleaste you had some fewe lynes from me, which may seme rather to wittnesse my dewtyfull good will then for anie great matter that ys fallen out here of late worthie of aduertysement. There are no other doings here then before Brouage, and consequently no other talke; where the D. of Mayne hath gotten lytle, and as some thinke will leaue with the losse. Mons^r Lansacq by comandement from the King hath of latte exhorted the nobilitie of this Court to resort to the D. of Mayne, affirminge that the Prince of Condé had vnshipped his souldiers and was nowe in the field. Mons^r arriued here the xixth of this presente, and the D. of Guyse departed towards Champagne the xxijth, accompanied with Shamberg one of

the Colonels of the Reisters. The D: of Neuers ys att Lymoges with so muche of Monsieur's armye as remayneth, where he attemptyth no newe thing, and perchaunce his next remoue may be towards Champaigne. There is no talke of Languedocq, and therefore your Lordship maye be assuured there is nothing done there to the King's aduantage. Some thinke that the Kinge will not sojorne longe in these parts. The spoyle of men and th'expense of mony and munitions hath ben so great in these fower monethes warre, and the gaine so lytle, as men devine diuersly what wilbe the end of these troubles. God grante them first to lyue in his feare and according to his holy word, and then as gode peace as their hartes canne desyer! And thus I leaue to trouble your Lordship, comytting you to the tuicion of the Allmightie. From Poiecters, &c.

TO MY L: OF LEYCESTER.

My verie good Lord, I trust your Lordship ys now retorned to the Court, whereof I would be as gladd as anie other, aswell for the better furtherance of her Maiesty's seruice by your good counsell and aduise in this fycle and daungerous tyme, as allso for my private benyfite and comoditie by the presens of so honorable a friende vppon all occasions occurring, being not ignorant that this place of seruice in this wicked tyme is subiect to many dangers, whereof I shalbe easily acquitted yf it shall suffice me to haue servyd my Prince trewly and faythfully. Because your Lordship shalbe assuryd to vnderstande the full certenty of my proceedings here, I am bolde to trouble you with this copie inclosid of my lettres sent to M^r Wallsingham, referring your Lordship for some other partycularities to the report of this bearer, whom it may please you to credit. I loke to here of your mulets verie shortely, which shalbe sent to your Lordship with all convenient speede. And thus resting at your comandement, I comitt &c.

TO MR TREASURER.

My verye good L:

Yt maye please your Honor to be content with these fewē lynes vntill the mallice of the world shalbe more ripe, which leaving all other things in good quiet sytteth his venim only against Brouage, and yet no great thinge hath ben done there, and perchance the Duke of Mayne wilbe content to leaue with losse, onlesse want of watter doe constraîne them to compounde. The Prince of Condé is said to haue vnshypped his souldiers, and to be now in the feild, and then I thinke I maye be bould to affirme that he will not suffer the D. of Mayne to be longe idle. The Army which was vnder the gouernment of the King's brother ys now held by the Duke of Neuers, who is att Lymoges, and is not accompted to performe any greater matter. The D. of Gyuse departed from hence towardes Champaigne, accompanied with Shamberg and others, the xxiith of this presentes, and some thinke that the King will not tarry longe in these parts. There is jealousy and suspicion receauyd of England, as if the Reisters were our hired souldiers, wherein they take vpon them to know more then I knowe, as in dede I haue not harde out of England of late. There is no great talke of Dampuill his doings in Languedocq, and then yt followeth that there is no great thing done there to their aduantage. And thus leaving to trouble your Lordship, I comytt you to the mercyfull tuicion of the Allmighty. From Poictiers, &c.

TO MY L: KEEPER.

My very good Lord, Vnlesse yt shall please your Lordship to deale better with me then I haue deserued I shall hardly excuse my self towards you that I haue not troubyld you more often of late with my lettres; and because your Lordship shall knowe the great hope which

I haue conceauyd of your good opinion of me, leaving all matter of excuse I will presume to assuer my self that you will not impute this fault to want of good will, and vpon this assuerance I am bold to present your Lordship with these few lynes, and by the same to aduertise you that your sonne thanks be to God is in good health, and other good newes your Lordship may not looke to heare out of these parts, where there is no end of all kindes of myschiefs and miseries. Nothing is remitted that may serue for the recouery of Brouage, neyther is there any other great action in hand att this presente in this parte of France, and some men thinke that the successe of this siege will not be very happie for those of the King's partie. The D: Montpensier and the other comyssioners are yet with the King of Nauare, where they treat of peace, and here it is given out that this peace comyth this daye and to morrowe and I cannott tell when, and in dede some thinke France will not be so happie this yeare. The D. of Guyse is gone towards Champaigne to provide for the Reistres, and some saye the King will not be longe from Parris. Dampuill dothe no great thing in Languedocq, and the army which Mons^r had in Auvergne ys now ydle. And thus leaving to trouble your Lordship, I comytt you to the mercyfull protection of the Almightye. From Poictiers.

TO MR DIER.

Sir, You may not loke to heare any good newes from hence, where we lyue after the olde fashion, in malyce and murder without pittie or mercye. We talke of peace, but our hartes are farre from it, as may appere by our actions that wee haue resolued to destroy one another vntill all be destroyed. No labour, no expense, no hazarde ys omitted that may serue to recouer Brouage, which is manfully defended and some thinke will not be wonne att this seige. And yet even now there is great talke that they lake both bread and watter, and that they talke of composicion, which many doe hardly beleue,

because the D. of Mercure is presently departed from hence to the succour of the D. of Mayne. The successe of these thinges will appeare shortely. We begine to tourne our malice against the Reistres, the D. of Guyse being dispatched towardses Champagne, and some thinke the King will not be longe out of Parris. Wee haue no other actions here in hand att this presente. Out of Languedocq there comyth nothing, and therefore no great thing done there as I beleue. I commend this bearer vnto you, and doe assuer my self that for the good frindshippe betwene you and me he shall not want your good fauor. I haue comanded him to seeke you, and to depend of you. And thus with my most harty comendacions I comitt you (my good M^r Dyer) to the mercyfull tuicion of the Almightye. From Poicters &c.

TO THE QUEENES MA^{TIE}.

Yt maye please your Ma^{tie} to be aduertised that, haueinge receaued your Highnes lettres of the xiiijth of Iulye the xxixth of the same, the next daye folowing I demandyd audyence of the King and Queen Mother, and the next morninge receauid answere that the King was busied that daye to make dispatches with his owne handes, and the next daye would not fayle to giue me audience ymediatly after dynner; att which tyme I resorted to the courte, where I founde his Ma^{tie} alone yn his chamber, neither anie of my trayne were suffered to enter. Manie coniectures may be made what was the trewe cause hereof, but the most lykely in my simple [mind] is this, that he doubted to receiue some hard message which he would debate privately with me. I declared vnto him that his ambassador had signyfyed vnto your Ma^{tie} that his M^{tie} had ben informed of municions sent to Rochell, and allso of monney sent into Germanie by your Highnes, a thinge merely contrary (as he said) to the concurrencye of frindshippe which by due of treaties ys expected betwene these two Realmes; that he did not thinke the originall of these surmysed

dealings to haue proceedyd from your Ma^{ty}, but rather from some bad instruments about you, and of this kind of people he confessyd his master's court not to be voyde, who, as they loved nothing lesse then peace, so they desyred nothing more then to kindle the fyre of discorde and trouble betwen these two Crounes, and therefore ceassyd not to sowe the seed of jealousye and suspicion in bothe your harts, trusting by this meanes, yf not vtterly to breake, att the least to weaken and dimynishe the good intelligence and sincere amitie which hath contynued so long tyme betwen your Ma^{ty}. That in the end he prayed that these jealousies and distrusts might be buried and forgotten of eyther syde, the continveance whereof might bread some breach and interruption of fryndshippe. I tolde him I was comanded by your Ma^{ty} to signifie vnto him that you founde it very strange that he would conceaue an yll opinion of you, haveing (as yt semyd) no other foundation of this suspicion then the reports of some aboute him which envyed the tranquillitty of the two Realmes. The worlde did iudge, & his Ma^{ty} might be bould to beleue, yf your Highnes had ben so mynded the Reistres had not ben now out of his dominions; that your Ma^{ty} comanded me to assuer him of your ynnocency in these things imputed vnto you, and that you were vtterly vnaacquainted with them otherwyse then by comon fame; that your Ma^{ty} had not dealt so slenderly with him; *that your challenge touching James Fitz-morris had a better foundation; that his lettres wrytten to his wyfe were intercepted; that these lettres made mencion of a promise made vnto him by the King, of men, ships and munitions, to yncade the realme of Irelande;* that, notwithstandinge, he was here not onely welcome and well receaued, but intertayned and maynteyned with manie kinde of frendshippes; that therefore your Ma^{ty} had iust cause to comande me in my last audience to informe him of your greife, and did now againe praye him vppon so manie and iust informacions to take such order herein as your Ma^{ty} myght stande assuryd to receaue nothing from him then offices worthie of good

frindshippe between you. And here being minded to proceede to my other complaints according to your Majesty's instructions, the King interrupted me, sayeing, that in dede he had willed his ambassador to signifie so much vnto your Ma^{ty}; that reports were brought vnto him dayly, at one tyme of he could not tell how many thousande angells sent into Germanye, at another tyme of municions sent to Rochell, then of succour that should be sent to Brouage; that he coulde not be easely inducyd to beleue yt; that your Ma^{ty} was a Princesse, and had many subiects, and therefore coulde not be ignorant of the dewtye of subiects towardes their Princes; that by the treaties of amitie passid betwene you, your Ma^{ty} might not giue anie ayde or comforte to his rebelles; *that he trustyd you would leaue his realme and people to his order and gouernment, as of his parte he had done neuer anye thinge that might tend to the trouble of your state*; that he desiered nothing more then to continwe in amitie with your Ma^{ty}; that he would deale roundely and playnely; that if your Ma^{ty} woulde doe the lyke, there would be no breach betwene you; that yf you woulde maynetayne his subiects against him, *he had the harte of his Father and Grandfather, and had power and abillitie to defende him self, and to offende his enemye.*

Towching Fitzmorris, I cannot lett him to wrytte to his wif what he thinketh good; wherein he hath rather shewed what he would haue then what he hath obteyned of him; that he neuer made him promise of men, shippes, or munitions; that when he moued him in such matters he awnswered him playnly that he should loke for no comfort at his hands in anie attempt against your Ma^{ty}; that he was departed from him with intent to go to the Pope, or he knewe not whether; that he neuer intended to assist him in this interprise of Irelande; which if he had done, *je voudrois*, sayeth he (I loked for some great othe which perchance was well forborne), *n'estre estimé*. And where as he hath made his abode in my realme, I haue done no more (sayeth he) then hath

ben done vnto me. Was not the Vydam of Chartres, was not Meru receauid in England, which were open and professyd enymies to my Crowne and State ?

I replyed that I was verie gladde to heare that he was so well perswaded of your good affection towards him ; that he promised all roundenes and sinceritie in his actions and dealings ; that he had now good cause to perseuer in this good disposition, considering how frendly and faithfully your Ma^{ty} hath satisfied him in all his doubts and suspicions, and that, seing the good concurrency of both sydes, there was no doubt of longe continuance of good and perfect amytie betwen you. I toulde him it was no newe thinge that discontented subiects are sometymes receaued in the terrytoryes and dominions of other Princes ; but that the disfrindship consisteth in this, yf the subiect be comforted or assisted in any bad interprise against his Soueraigne, whereof there hath ben some lykelyhood and probabilitie in this matter of Fitzmorris ; and therefore prayed him to take such order as your Ma^{ty} might be assuered to receaue no offices from him, or from any other by his assent, as were not worthie of the good amitie betwene you. The King, after some mention made of Meru, and of some comfort saide to haue ben given vnto him which he woulde not beleue (herein he was very short), gaue me his faythfull promise with longe protestacions, and requiered me to assure your Ma^{ty} thereof in his name, concluding that if Fitzmorris retorned into this realme, he should knowe that he had not don well to write or reporte so vntrewly of him.

Then I proceeded to the other parts of your Ma^{ty}'s instructions, and said vnto the King that your Highnes' subiects were robbyd, spoyled and killed on the seas daylie ; that they had made sondry and often complaints that no justice was ministerd vnto them ; that your Ma^{ty} could not lyke with this hard dealing ; that you had taken streight order for redresse of the lyke insolences comitted by any your subiects ; that your Highnes had comanded me to assure him of the dewe performance of this your direction ; that if he loked to

haue that correspondency of your parte which he desyered he must awnswere your Ma^{ty} with lyke offices, and giue you full sattisfaction in all your just and lawfull greifes. The King awnswered that he was very sorry to heare that your Maiesty's subiects were molested; that the same was to be imputed to the malice of this tyme; that he had taken streight order for justice to be dewly admynistered; that his subiects complayned no lesse [of] wrongs done to them, and for the shorte justice they founde in England; that tyme woulde redresse these things, and in this meane tyme his good will should not want.

I replied that I was comanded to assure his Ma^{ty} that his subiects found good justice in England, yea with favour and expedicion; I prayed him not to suffer him self to be abused, and to be content to beleue, as all others beleiud to their greif, that there was no justice in France. I tould him England would be ashamed that any pirate or murtherer notoriously knowne should escape vnpunished; but our English merchants could name the shippes which haue robbyd them, of what parte they are, whoe are their captaines & owners, and where they dwell, and yet there is no redresse; and for better proufe thereof I sayed I had even then receavid a byll from your Ma^{ty} of sondery pircyes comitted now latly, by the which all these things woulde be veryfied, and haveing this bill in my hand did profer to shewe it unto him.

The King aunswerid that he had ben accustomed to referre these lyke matters to De Foix, but because he was not now here he would appointe some one of his counsell, of whose name I should be aduertised the next daye by Gondye, and would take order with him to giue justice with expedicion vpon these and all other complaints occuringe.

I toulde the King that there remained yet one other complaint which semed to be of greater importance then the former. I saide that the marchants of England, deuring the tyme of the Kings his predicessors, had ben alwaies well receaued in all parts of France, well intreated, favorably vsed, and allso gratyfied with sondery

liberteyes and privilliges to their great comfort and comoditie, and to the great benifitt of the Kings which then reigned; but now of late it is not enough that they are robbyd and spoyled on the seas, yf allso they be not yll intreated in matter of custom and other lyke dewtyes, and not only theire auncient lybertyes are taken from them, but they are allso chardged with new impositions, and in many other—

(The MS. is imperfect here.)

subiects gone in other vessells to the reskew of Rochell; that these were not the good offices which the King her sonne expectyd to receaue from your Highnes; that these things were contrarie to the informacions of my last audience; that she woulde not hide them from me; that the remedy if theire be any was to be sought in the beginning; that her sonne could not and would not indeure these iniuries. Because these woords were of weight, I thought good to vse her owne tearmes, *that he was as well able to make broyles in your realme as you in his*; that his meanes was not so short as some supposed; that he was able aswell to defend him self as to offend your enymie, prayeing me to consider of these things.

I answered that I was very glade to see her good inclynation to conserue the amitie betwen these ij Crownes; that there was no readyer waye to effectuat this good meaning then to deale roundely and playnly; that I thought her opinion to be verie good to seek the remedy in the beginning; that these surmysd iniuryes were very strang vnto me; that I conceaued of them as of vntrew and fayned reports; that in honor she coulde doe no lesse then to reserue one eare for your Ma^{ty}; that these seuerall pretended iniuries had their seuerall consideracions; and that if it would please her to giue me leaue, I would say my opinion of them seuerallie. I tolde her that touching the surmise of the fower shippes supposed to be gone to Rochell with xii^e men, I could in no wise be indeucyd to beleue it; that concerning the three other shippes & small barkes supposed

to be sett to the seas, yf it were indeed trew, she ought not to find it strang; and that, considering the pretenses of Fitzmories and the preparations made by La Roche, your Ma^{ty} had good cause to arme by sea. Here Queen Mother intercepted me saying, What cause hath your misteres to sett shippes to the seas? Fitzmories is no more here; he went from vs ill content and is gone to the Pope; and touching La Roche you have ben satisfied, who hath ben comanded to attempt nothing against the Queen of England or her dominions, and if he doe he shalbe punished for it. I replied that I was comanded by your Ma^{ty} to praye the King her sonne to take order with La Roche to ceasse his preparacions; that otherwise your Highnes could not be satisfied; that the King's awnswere was not so effectuall as I could have wished; that to have comanded him, and to threaten punishment for the breach of the comandement was not ynough; that the punishment of many La Roches could not countervail the troubling of your state or kingdome; that it had pleased her Ma^{ty} to deale more lardgly with me herein then the King had done; that being readye when she sent for me to dispatch my messenger, I had not forgotten to make trew reporte of her awnswere herein, and that I knewe your Ma^{ty} tooke it in good parte. Yt may be (said she,) my sonne awnswerid as you saye; but I canne assuer you that he will awnswere for La Roche's doings against [your] misteres, and so you may informe her. Madame, (quod I,) I am very gladd to receaue this answere & will not fayle to make trew reporte of it; and touching the last surmised iniurye of some Englyshmen gone to Rochell, I towld her that if it weare trewe, she ought not to fynd it strange that yong men fyndeing them selues at good leasure would [seek] their advantag; that diueres of your Maiesty's subiects, yes some that were of honorable houses, did serue the King her sonne against the Protestants; that if anie number were gone to Rochell, I thought your Ma^{ty} was not acquainted with their doings and would not avowe them.

Yt is not enough (saith she,) that the Queen your mistres doth

not avow them. This was the practise of Lewes the XIth. But these shifts will not last for euer. La Personne and now an other (whome she named not,) are receaued in England. Whey dothe not the Queen comaund them and the rest to submitt them selues to their King & Soueraigne, whoe is readie to receaue them with favor? Madam, (quod I,) I find it strang that you would so brydell her Ma^{ty} as it should not be lawfull for her to speake with La Personne, a stranger passing thorough the cunteryes. Well, (sayeth she,) I wish these things were amended. My sonne may no longer beare these kind of dealinge; he is ready to be a frend yf he may be receaved, and if not he is able to be an enemie. She sayde your Ma^{ty} ought not to thinke that when the troubles here shalbe pacified they will sett vppon you, which was not ment or intended. They desyer nothing more then to live in peace with you now and euer. I tould her I might be bould to saye that your Ma^{ty} was no lesse affected to keepe good amitie with them; that you woulde not attempt any thing to the contrarie, but constrayned by necessitie; that this intelligence was greatly nessesary for the one and the other kingdome; that the greatenes of France did maynetayne the greatenes of England, and so of the other syde; that for my parte I loved peace so much as I would wishe the King her sonne had made a good peace with his subiects, and that I thought it would be a happie peace for both parties. To conclud, I prayed her to informe me what assuerance she had of the certaine trewth of these surmised quarells. She answerid she did not remember particularities, but she would send one vnto me that should informe me, and so praying me to reporte those things vnto your Ma^{ty} I was dismissed.

Yn the euening Mons^r Pynart was sent vnto me to my lodging from Queen Mother to informe me that the aduertisments geuen to the King and Queen Mother were these: first, that seven or eight English shippes appointed in warlike manner were gone of late alonge the coast of Bretaine, and passing by Vrest the cap^{tn}

there sent a pinace after them to viewe their doings, and doth reporte that for trewth they are gone to Rochell: Secondly, that there are armed at the Isle of Weight fower shippes and eight or tenne hulks in the name of the King of Navarre, but the shippes English, the cap^m Englishe, the marryners Englishe, and all other provicyons English: Thirdly, that fower of your Ma^{ty} shippes are sett to the seas, in the which are xii^c men, and haue ben seene making their course towards Rochell, as it semed: Lastlie, that your Ma^{ty} armith three other shippes, which shalbe followed with small barks to keepe the seas, and to doe such further interprise as shalbe thoughte meete. But (sayeth he,) these aduertisements come not from Mons^r Maulvasiere (and this he repeated three or fowere tymes) but by other meanes. Mons^r Pinart made great protestacion of the good affection of the King and Queen Mother towards your Ma^{ty}, and receaued againe the lyke from me. We had great conference in manie thinges, and especyallie in the marchants' causes. Wherein he was content to yeald to the trewth, and to confesse that all thinges here were in disorder, and that the French havens were full of pyrates and theues. He promiseth expedicion in all causes that conserneth your Maiesty's subiects, and desiereth me to vse him for my soliciter vppon all occasions occurring. Surely I cannott comend vnto your Highnes ynough aswell his willing readines as his plaine dealing in matters concerning your Maiesty's service. He complayneth of some wronges in generall tearmes, whereof he will give me the particularities, and allso fyndeth great fault with the excessive chardges which the French sustayne in the prosecuting of their sewtes in England in matters of depradacions.

In the end of my last conference with Queen Mother, I tould her that it would not be ynoughe to satisfie our English marchants for the wronges comitted already, onleat therewithall order were taken that they might not be greved hereafter; and therefore, the French pyrates and their shipping being notoriously knowne, did praye her to moue the King to wryght his lettres to the governours of his

seuerall provinces to take order that those knowne theyves might goe no more to the seas, as otherwise there would be no end of complaintes; and to this purpose I haue deliuered the copie of the bill which I receaued from your Ma^{ty} of the late spoiles done by the French vppon the English marchants to Mons^r Pinart, whoe hath promised that order shalbe taken for all such as are mentioned in the same.

Twoe such as I knowe to be spyes for Queen Mother haue told me within these twoe dayes *that D: John hath sent to your Ma^{ty} to requier the Queen of Scots for his wif.* And because this tale cometh from suspected men, I doubt it hath some further meaning.

The siege contyneweth before Brouage, where a supply of cxx. men or more hath entryd of late, and haue killed Capⁿ Chamereau and diueres of his companie, and is said that at the said instant those of Brouage yssued out and spoyled twoe peces of ordenance. The King semith to be verie resolute touchinge this matter of Brouage, and being out of feare of the Reistres for this yeare doth bend now all his forces against yt, intending to haue it at anie price whatsoeuer. Yt is thought that the end of this seige wilbe no lesse daungerous then chardgable to the King; the D: of Maine haueing aduertised of late, that onles speedy [order] be given for new supplies, he shalbe forced to departe with shame and discreditt. This matter of Brouage troubleth this courte marvelously, and especyallie because the honour of the House of Guyse is touched herein.

The bruyct aduertised by my last messenger contineweth of the league concluded for certaine yeares betwen the Turke and the King of Spayne; which being trew, it is lyke that the French King hath ben the mediator betwene them, and then it behoveth your Ma^{ty} to consider of it.

After I had endid with Queen Mother in my first audience, I declarid to the French Quene, that I was verie glad to haue that occation to com to her presence, thereby to be assueryd of her good

estate, whereof I knewe no Princesse would be more glad than your Ma^{tie}. She desired me to do her most hartie comendacions to your Highnes, and to pray you to thinke that no Princesse wished better vnto you. And thus I comitt your most excellent Ma^{tie} to the mercyfull tuicion of the Almightye.

TO M^R WALLSINGHAM.

It may please your Honour to receaue inclosyd herein the copie of my lettres sent to her Ma^{tie}, and of others to my Lord of Lecyster, not doubting but that Nycasius and my sonne are with you long before this tyme. I haue not to trouble your Honour at this presente with anie other particularities; only to pray you to continew your good favor towards me, and to lett me heare from you how the world goeth in your parts. I thanke you most humbly for your good remembrance in the dispatch of John Tupper. Your Honor knoweth that the bill of depredacions which I receaued now from you is lesse then suffioient for manie causes to enter into anie particular sewt for anie thinge mentioned in the same, wherein the seuerall merchants must doe their seuerall indeavors, and Mons^r Dorsey being now here is comanded to give speedie justice.

Your Honor would marvile if you knew the practises that are here vsyd to come within me, wherein greate personages are employed (besydes other of meaner calling) vnder color of great fryndeshipp. This sheweth the great jealousie and distrust which they haue conceaued of her Ma^{tie}; and for my part, I trust, by the grace of God, to beate them with their owne rods. I am suer I know [some such] as are employed this waye.

Yt may please your Honor to doe me the pleasure to send the copie of my lettres to the Queen to my Lord Treasurer, yf he be not at the court.

This bearer, Mr. Throckmorton, hath prayed me to give him leaue

to repaier into England, being herevnto requiered by his mother as he sayeth, whoe hath promised to gett him lycence to travil into Italie, because haveing now gotten the French tong in good perfection, he cannott make any other profit by his abode in France. To be playne with you, I thinke my self very happy that I am honestly deliuered of him. He is a verie yonge man, and hath his imperfections, which riper yeares and good counsell may remoue from him. He may not goe into Italie without the companie of some honest and wyse man, and so I haue tould him, and in manie other things haue dealt very playnely with him. I heare he hath ben chardgable to his mother, which must be imputed to his follie, haveing had his meate and drinke with me for him self and his mann, and [I] haue not only from his first coming to Paris provided him of a horse, but allso haue found his horse att my chardges. His mother prayeth that his coming ouer may seme to proceed of his owne request, because the Queen shall not be offended with it, &c.

TO MY L: OF LEYCESTER.

My very good Lord, I forbear to trouble your Lordship with the particularities of my late negotiation with the French Kinge and his Mother, because I doubt not but that her Ma^{ty} will acquainte you with the same, and indeed [it] shall not be vnmeet in my simple opinion to be considered by your Lordship and others her faithfull counsellors, as a matter that will serve to decypher some parte of our French humour. I will not presume of other our thoughts to iudge in matters of great importance; only this I will saye, that I praye God they finde not here that her Ma^{ty} is affraied of La Roche and his companions, and they will not fayle to hold her att this baye vntyll they have served all other turnes. Your Lordship shall find in my lettres to her Ma^{ty} that the King here maketh mention of som shippes that are gone forthe already, which in good judgment (yf I be not deceaved) could not be geuen out by him to any other end

then to terrifie her Ma^{ty}, and thereby to withdrawe her from some other interprise, which he might suspect she had taken in hand. And my last audience with Queen Mother doth seme to conferme this coniecture, in the which she is content to saye vpon these last newes of preparacions in England, that the King will awnswere for La Roche's doings, which he might not well doe yf his shippes weare gone fourth already with intent to attempt anie thinge against her Ma^{ty}.

There is little newe matter stering here other then such as your Lordship shall fynd in my lettres to her Ma^{ty}. And thus resting att your Lordship's comandement, I comitt you to the tuicion of the Allmightie, whoe alwaies preserue your honorable Lordship. Poictiers, &c.

TO MY L: TREASORER.

My very good Lord, Yf your Lordship be at the Court, I doubt not but her Ma^{ty} will acquainte you with my lettres sent presentlie vnto her; and if your Lordship be not there I have prayed M^r Wallsingham to send the copie vnto you, the same being of so great leangth, and the matter requiering a speedy dispatch, as for want of tyme as lykewise of helpe, one of my clarks being now in England, I could not make a copie for your Lordship; submitting my self most humblie to your Lordship's censure aswell in these lettres as in all my other doeings, which I trust to find as frindely and as favorable as heretofore, and in deede the great and constant opinion which I have conceauid hereof is my greatest comfort in this tyme of this troublous service. I knowe no other thinge worthey the writing then is conteyned in my lettres to her Ma^{ty}, and thus resting att your comandement, I comitt your Lordship to the mercifull tuicion of the Almightye, whoe allwaies preserue you. Poicters.

TO MY L. OF WARWICKE.

My verie good Lord, Yt may please your Lordship to be content with fewe lynes vntyll I may find some better store of matter. The only doings att this presente in France onthisyde Languedocq are before Brouage, where the seige contineweth, the King being no less resolute to win it then they to defend it. A newe supplye of cxx men or theare abouts is enterid the towne of late, and now they talke no more of their wante of bread, watter, or munitions ; and in deed theire daylie doings do shewe they are not vnprovided of all things necessarie. Yt is said that the [King] is assurid the Reistres will not trouble him this yeare, so as now what course he will take is vncertayne. I haue had twoe audiences this last week at greate length, and do finde the King and Queen Mother verie jealous of her Ma^{tie}'s frindshippe. This bearer cann informe your Lordship of the state of the Courte here in all things apperteyning. And here, for want of more store of matter, I must comitt your good Lordship to the mercifull tuicion of the Allmightie. Poicters, &c.

TO MR WILLSON.

Sir, I should forgett my self to much, yf I did not congratulate your saefe retorne into England by some fewe lynes, which shall serue only to pray you to accompt of me as of one that you may comaunde. There is no other talke here then of Brouage, and indeed their is no other action in hand on this syde Languedocq, where Dampuille doth his best indeavor to shewe his best affection towards the King his master. Wee doe not cease to treat of peace, and perchance necessitie may bring it to passe. Brouage semith to be reasolute, and the King semeth to be no lesse reasolut to haue it. It hath ben a long, costlie, and bloudie siege. The King is no longer

in feare of the Reistres, and now what course he will take is vncertaine. This is all I can tell you of our state here. My servante Forteskewe hath prayed me to put you in remembrance of a supplicacion remayning in your hands, exhibited in the favor [of] one French for a shippe builded by him. Wherein it may please you to doe him the pleasure that you may. And thus, &c.

• To MR DALE.

Good Mr. Dale, I haue receaued your lettres of the xixth of the laste, sent by John Tupper, and doe thanke you much for your aduertisement of the state of things in those parts. The seige contineweth before Brouage, and the [King is] very resolute to goe thorough with it at anie price what soeuer. The Duke of Neuers hath yet attempted nothing in Lymoson, and what course he will take is not yet certaine. No talke of Reistres, and the King semith to be settelid in Poicters. Vntill Brouage be wonne, their wilbe no other newes walkeing. And thus with my most hartie comendacions, I leaue to trouble you, comittinge, &c.

To MR SECRETARY WALLSINGHAM.

Yt may please you to vnderstand, by this copie inclosed, the good expedicion which hath ben vsed here touchinge the causes of the English marchants, and there is good hope that the conclusion wilbe no lesse favorable. After I had receiued this order, I informed Mons^r Pinart that I had a veryfication touching 360 crownes consigned, where vppon I had the next daye the King's lettres patentes for the dischardg thereof. These English merchants, at their repaier vnto me, desiered onlie the restitution of the money consigned, to be restored to the libertie of the free faires, and to haue reformation touching the weight of their ballots (?), of which thre points, the first being granted already, the other two are so easilie proved as the

marchants alreadie hold them assuerid. But finding the tymes convenient, and considering the importance of their other greifes, I thought good to requier them to make fynall declaracion of all their complaints; which I exhibited to the King, and perchance some good may followe of it. In the end of my last audience with the King and Queen Mother, I was a sutor vnto them as of my self, for fower English prisoners condempned to the gallies, whose offence was onlie this, that they aborded a French barke by comandement of their captain, who was immediatlie separated from them by fould weather, so as the Frenchmen caryed these Englishemen into France. I was the more bold to deale herein, because they weare simple men and no other but comon mariners, and allso that they had not robid anie French goods, or killed anie manne, and in deed I was verie earnest with the King and Queen Mother for their deliuerie. The King answered that vppon informacion of the circumstances of their facte he would give me his reasonable answer. I had procuered lettres at this tyme from the procuerence at Paris to the Chancellour, makeing full declaracion of all the particularities of their proces.

In my last awdyence with Queen Mother, I put her in remembrance of my seiute, who promised not to fayle to further it. The vith of this presente, Mons^r Lansacq and Mons^r Pinart were sent vnto me [to state] that the prisoners were geuen vnto me, aswell for my gratificacion in my first request, as allso vppon hope that I would procuer the lyke favor to be shewed to the French vppon lyke occasions occurring. They were allso willed to informe me of the expedicion geuen in the caweses of the English marchants, saying that they doubted not but that I would make such report thereof as the French marchants might be assuerid to find the lyke justice in England. Herevppon we grew into long talke of the presente state of our cuntries; wherein I concluded with them that for one pirate in England they had ténne in France; that for one pyracie comitted these twoe yeares last past by the English vppon the French, there

hath ben tenne done by the French vppon the English ; and that at this presente all their havens were full of rouers and theues, which was fayntely denied.

The D. of Neuers ys repayered hether, and his armie marcheth towards Brouage, as lykewise all that may be spaird from the courte and cuntery is sent thether. The King is verie resolute in this matter of Brouage, wherein he sparith neyther men nor monye.

The King of Navarre ys repayered to Bergeracq, where all the Deputies for the Religion are assemblyd, and did beginne the vth of this presente to conferr with the Deputies from the King touching the Treatie of Peace. The King proferyth the Edict of 1570. The King of Navare requiereth the last Edict with some qualifications.

There is great brute here of new troubles in Flanders.

Arnold, secretarie to Mons^r Maulvasiere, arryued here the xith of this presente, whoe geueth out secretly that her Ma^{ty} armith all her shippes.

Yt is said here that La Noue, La Perdin, and the Vicounte de Touraine come to the succor of those of Brouage; and euen now it is given out that Mons^r and the D. of Neuers shall departe from hens to Angoulesme or Coignacq the xvjth of this presente.

Marans is said to be taken by those of Rochell.

Mr. Bickener hath promised to convaye these lettres from Roan with as good speed as he may without any charge to her Ma^{ty}. And thus I comitt you to the mercifull tuicion of the Allmightie. From Poicters, the xiiijth of August, 1577.

TO THE ENGLISHE MERCHANTS OF ROAN.

I haue mouyd the King and Queen Mother for redresse of your greefes, signified vnto me by this bearer M^r Thomas Bickner; wherein I haue received such answere as may appeere vnto you by this copie inclosed, finding the King and Queen Mother verie willing to take order in your causes, as may appertayne to equitie

and justice. So as you shall thinke good to appointe some of your companie to followe their sewte, there is good hope that your labour will not be lost; wherein you shalbe assuerid to haue my vttermost furtherance, and shall thinke my self happie if I may be the instrument to procuer any to those of my countrey. I had no accesse to the King in thre weekes after my comyng hether, which is the cause that this bearer retornith no soner, of whose honest and faythfull dilligence I will saye nothing, because he is no stranger vnto you. And thus, &c. Poicters, xiiijth of August, 1577.

TO M^R SECRETARIE WALLSINGHAM.

Yt may please your Honour to be aduertised that the xviiij of this presente, in the morning, Mons^r Gondy was sent from the King and Queen Mother vnto all the Ambassadors to informe them that Brouage was yelded by composition, and that the capttaines and sowdyours there were already or should shortly repaier to Rochell in some of the King's galleys for their better sewertie. The xixth all the other ambassadors had audience, and the same daye I also askyd audience, which was appointed the xxth immediatlie after the King's dinner, at which tyme resorteing to the Courte, because the King was busied as it was said, I was first brought to Queen Mother, vnto whom I vsed suche speache as I thought most convenient for this subiect of congratulation, and received from her suche ordinary answere as at other tymes vppon like occasione, omittinge to make recitall of the particularities as troublesome and superfluous. In the end of these complaints, Queen Mother told mee that the Kinge her sonne was now in good hope to reduce his subiects to theire due obedience, and that nobody could let there good purpose but the Queen my mistres. I answered that her Ma^{tie} had, many and sondry wayes, giuen her good cause to beleeve that no other did more desire it, or would be more glad of yt. Yf, (saith shee,) wee may receiue from her deedes answerable to her

wordes, all wilbe well. Madame, (q^d I,) you have receaved from her hitherto good offices of good frindsheepe, and so shall here after yf you give no cause to the contrary. What say you to yt (saithe shee,) that the Queen your mistres hathe sent of late tenn thousand angells into Germanye? To what end? (q^d I,) to make a leavy of ij^e Reistres? Tenn thousand angells (saith shee,) are lx^m franckes, and it is a good helpe to laye the ground plott of a levy of Reistres. This is as true (q^d I,) as the last tale of lx^m angelles, and of the Englishe shippes which you said to have ben seene by a gallion of Brest to enter into Rochell, and manye other like quarells which you have founde by good experience to be malitiously forged by soche as envy the happie quietnes betweene these two Crownes. And your Mistres (saithe shee,) hathe ben likewise informed of many vntruthes touchinge Fytzmorice and otherwayes. I answered that her Ma^{ty} had alwayes reserved one eare for the King her sonne, and suspended her judgement vntill shee had received her answer. And so dothe the King my sonne, (saithe shee;) but I pray you, Mons^r L'embassadeur, let vs have good deedes. Madam, (q^d I,) I believe constantly you are already satisfied in your hart that you shall have no other from her Ma^{ty}. I trust (saith shee,) I shalbe satisfied shortly by you. And so, after some ordinary ceremonyes, I was dismissed. Then I was conveyed to the King, vnto whom I vsed like speache in effect as before to the Queen his mother. The Kinge answered that it was a thinge vsuall amongst all Princes alayed together in good amytye to certifie the one the other of suche good happes as fell vnto them, and for his parte he would not omytte this good office towards her Ma^{ty}, and therefore did not fayle to advertise me of this matter of Brouage, not doubtinge but that for the good and perfect amytye which was now and hathe so longe continued betweene the Queen my mistres and him, she would reioyce with him in all his prosperitie, as of his part he is moche comforted when he herethe of any good hape that fallethe vnto her. Then he discoursed with me very famyliarlye of the estate of Brouage, of the

great store of salt that was there, and that accordinge to the composition the soldiers were [not] molested in lyf or goodes. I replied that I was very glad to heare that he had dealt so favorably with them, which was not only honourable but also profitable in my symple opinion. I told him that his power and mercye joygned together were the best meanes to reduce his subiects to their due obedience, and to restore his realme to his former quietnes. I desire nothinge more (said the King,) then to see that day; and to that purpose I have now longe tyme employd one of the chiefest about me. I told him that no prince or princesse would be more glad to se him duly and generally obeyd of his subiects then her Ma^{ty}, and so prayd him to thinke notwithstandinge the slanderous and seditious reports which have been brought vnto him and vnto the Queen his mother, who had made me acquainted with them in my last audience. My mother (saith the King,) hathe governed this estate many yeares, and hathe alwayes accustomed to deale plainly and rowndlye with her frendes, as of his parte he had don the like, and trusted to receive like measure againe. I answered that he had found by good experience that her Ma^{ty} had vsed like rowndnes towardes him, and had acquainted him from tyme to tyme with the iust and sound groundes of her suspicions and jalousies, reservinge alwayes one eare for his answer: but (q^d I,) the principall meanes to norishe and increase good amitye betwene you is to have a good opinion the one of the other, and then you will not easily be caried awaye by the sinister instigation of suche as desire nothinge more then to bringe former quiet into dissention, and in steed of amytie and peace to kindle the fire of discord and trouble betwene these two Crownes. I am not hastie (saith the King,) to conceive vnkindnes of my good syster the Queen your mistres; and I trust to be satisfied by you in all theise surmised iniuries to my full contentation. This was the effect of the speache that passed betwene the King and me.

Yt is easie to see that the Queen Mother hathe conceived some

sinister opinion of her Ma^{ty}, and indeed she would not confesse in any wise that she was satisfied in her hart, althoughe I vrged her vnto yt twise or thrise.

I may not forget to tell your Honor that when Mons^r Gondy came vnto me to informe me of that newes of this matter of Brouage, he told me the D: of Mayne enteryd into Brouage with foure companies of footemen the xvth of this presente. Surely theise men care not what they say, and no doubt [this] was said vnto me of purpose, thinkinge I would have ben in hast to advertise her Ma^{ty} of this great matter of Brouage, and indeed the King in his conference with me told me that he doubted not but that I had already given advertisment therof to her Ma^{ty}. I answered that I thought good to speake first with his Ma^{ty} to knowe his further pleasure to the Queen my mistres. I cannot coniecture of any other cause of this kind of dealinge, then that the French Ambassador there hathe perswaded them here that England quakethe for feare at the first newes of anye letle prosperitie that hapnethe to the King's side, and therefore would be glad to have their good newes caryed into England lardgely and speedily. The truthe of this matter, as farr as I can learne, is this, that those of Brouage had no want of men, munition, biefe, bread, beaves, oyle, and other like necessities, but found themselves moche encombred with their sicke and hurt men, and were not best provided of good surgeons. This grieve was vnknowne vnto the enemye, who looked rather to heare that the seage should be levyed then that the towne should be rendred. Diverse brave gentlemen of this court were repaired hither frome thence not above foure dayes before the composition, in vtter dispaire of the good successe of this siege. Many said that the D. of Maine was rather besieged then those within Brouage, and that there was no posibilitie to wyne this towne in six weekes. This was the opinion of all men, when sodainly those of Brouage treate of composition, which was agreeed in this sorte, that they should depart safely with bagge and bagage, the ensigne folded, the dromme at

the backe, their weapons in their handes, the match lighted, and should cary with them a canon and a cullverin, parcell of the ordinance of Brouage. Some say that theise thinges depended vppon many other conditions, whereof beinge secretly advertized, and consideringe that *multa cadunt inter calicem et labra*, I thought good to forbear to write vntill I might advertise some matter of certaintye. The D. of Maine had written to the King that the first messenger after the yeeldinge of the towne should be Mons^r D'Aumom (?). This messenger came not, nether any other, vntill the xxiith of this presente, late in the night, and in this meane tyme it was generally receaved and believed for a matter of truthe that those of Brouage had revoked their composition; but this corier hathe assured the King that the towne is yeelded vnto him.

Mons^r Villeroy ys arrived here lately from the King of Navarre, and it is said that Mons^r de Biron is allreadie in his way hitherwards, accompanied with Mons^r de S^t Genys and Mons^r D'Eseguya, Deputes from the King of Navarre; so as there is great likelihood of peace accordinge to this Act enclosed, which was written at Bergeracq by a man of good credit the xixth of this presente. Yf the Peace take effect, yt is for fear of the Reistres.

I heare of nothing done in Languedocq, where some say the King's service is moche hindred for want of money.

The ambassador of Spaine departed hence towards Nantes the xixth of this presente, where he intendethe to ymbarke himselfe for Spain, havinge lefte his secretary here in this Court.

Your Honour shalbe assured to heare frome me touchinge the Low Contreys vppon every good occasion occurringe.

And thus I comitt your Honour to the &c. Poitiers.

TO M WALSINGHAM.

August 24,
1577.

I thanke your Honour most humbly for the great favour and courtesie which it pleased you to shew vnto my sonne at his late

beinge in England, wheron I am confirmed in my former opinion of your good and assured frendshipp towards me. I trust you accompt of the father and the sonne as of those that are truly and faithfullye at your commaundement, and so will continue for ever. I trust you have receaved my lettres sent by M^r Bickner of Roane, the report mentioned in the same touchinge Marens beinge vntreue. I am very glad to vnderstand by my sonne, and do thinke my selfe deeply bounde vnto your Honour, that it pleasethe you to consyder alreadie of my retorne into England, which cannot be [so] sone as I wishe. I canne be content that my other honourable frindes do take pittie of me in respect of my great charge here; but I must say vnto you as to my best frind, that sythence my cominge from Paris my expences hathe ben very reasonable, & could live here longe tyme before it should pinche me, and yet I pray you let no meanes be omitted that may serve to farther my retorne into England.

This bearer John Roberts was put vnto me by S^r John Younge, and at his owne request hathe continued in Paris sythence my cominge from thence for his better learninge of the language, vntill now of late he is repaired hither to make me acquainted with his retorne into England.

Yt may please your Honour to excuse me to my Lord Tresorer, vnto whom I forbear to write, because I heare by my sonne that he is not at the Court.

Besides the chalendge made by Queen Mother of 10000 angelles, it is given out by some others that her Ma^{tie} hathe given a greater somme, but I make no hast to advertise theise thinges for diuerse causes.

Because I hard by my sonne that my Lord of Leicester was not at the Court, I have sent the copie of theis lettres to his Lordship.

There hathe ben some broyle in Rochell, and some say some captaines have ben hanged there of late. I have no opinion of this peace, but looke rather that the King of Navarre wilbe

sharply folowed yf the Reistres come not. There hathe ben here sodaine takinge vp of horses, sodaine takinge of great store of bread, and sodainely disappointed with losse. .

When the Swyses departed from hence towards Brouage they caried ther bread with them, because it is not to be found in that way. This viage is but differred as some say. Yt is thought that Mons^r Biron will be here this night. Havinge stayed this messenger one day vppon hope of his comminge, for some causes, &c.

TO MY L: OF LEYCESTER.

My very good Lord, Beinge advertised by my sonne of your Lordship's absents from the Court at his cominge from thence, and doubtinge where theise lettres may find you, I have thought good to trouble your Lordship with this copie inclosed of my lettres to M^r Secretary Walsingham, therby to geve you fully to vnderstand of the state of thinges here at this presente. I thanke your Lordship most humbly of the great favoure and curtesie which it pleased you to shewe of late vnto my sonne, a manifest argument of your good affection which you beare vnto his father, most humbly prayinge your Lordship to accompt of vs bothe as of your servants at comaundement.

I have ben delayed by the marchant who promised to provide me of moyles for your Lordship; trustinge to have them shortly, wherein my vttermost indevore shall not want, and shalbe alwayes ready to do your Lordship in all other thinges all the service that may lye in my letle power, &c. Poictiers.

TO MY L. OF WARWICKE.

August 24,
1577.

My very good Lord, I ame right sorry to heare of your Lordship's sicknes, and shalbe no lesse comforted with the newes of your re-

covery, which God graunte. Yt may please your Lordship to hold my sonne excused that he did not repaire vnto you at his late beinge in Englande, which he had not fayled to have done, if he had not ben tyed to dayly attendance for her Ma^{ty}: answer to my lettres sent by him, most humbly prayinge your Lordship to thinke that bothe the father and the sonne are and wilbe alwayes at your comaundement.

All men here have found yt very straunge that Brouage should treat of composition, and more straunge that they should so slenderly yeeld the towne to the enymie, havinge no want of men, munition, victuales, or any other thinge necessary for a towne of warre; as those of the other side report, to the great shame and reproche of the besieged. All men say that yf Cap^a Serys, a gentleman of Poictou, had lived, theire towne had not ben yelded. This gentleman hathe donne great thinges dwringe this siege, and was slayne in a skirmishe before the towne a few dayes before yt was yeelded. This only excuse is alleadged that, havinge many hurt and sicke men, they were not provided of good surgeons.

Mons^r Vylleroy is com lately from the Kinge of Navarre, and Mons^r Byron is cominge, accompanied with two Deputes from the said King, so as some thinke this Peace may be made. What shall become of the armye that was before Yssorye, and the army of the Duke of Maine, is yet vncertaine. Ther is no new thinge of ymportance out of Languedocqe. And thus I leave to trouble your Lordship, comittinge you to the tuicion of the Almighty. Poictiers.

TO MY L. OF SUSSEX.

My very good Lord, This contrey is so baren of good news as yt is hard to find any thinge wurthy of a good man; and yet good and badd must be taken in good part; the good as a blessinge without our deserts, the yll as a punishment in mercye for our amendment. The troubles continew, not without some hope of peace, to which

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purpose Mons^r Vylleroy is arrived from the King [of Navarre]. Brouage is yeelded by composition, when nothinge lesse was expected, where there was no want of men, munitions, or victualles, as ther enymies report in great derision. It is said that the besiegers had more cause to complaine then those besieged. I have written at some lengthe to M^r Walsingham, and I know his lettres will not be kept from you, and therefore I will trouble your Lordship no further at this present, besechinge you to accompt of me as of one that is wholly at your commaundement. And thus I comitt your good Lordship to the tuicion of the Almightye. Poictiers.

TO M^R TREASURER.

I thanke your Honour most humbly for your lettres sent by my sonne, and for your advertisment of the newes of Flanders, wherein God shewethe as well his just judgement against their cruelties practized there of late, as also his undeserved mercy towards poore England, whose quietnes is intertained by the harmes of our neighbours; and vnleast this help did serve the tourne, I doubt least our securitye would throwe vs headlonge into many dangers. Brouage is rendered, and very slenderly if it be truly reported; no want of men, munition, or vittells; this only excuse is said to be aleadged, that they had many hurt men, and were vnprovided of good surgeons. They depart with bagge and baggage, and carry with them a cannon and a culverin parcell of the ordinance of Brouage. The Treaty of Peace is not yet broken, and some say that certaine Deputes come hither from the King of Navarre very shortly, Mons^r Villeroy beinge allredy arrived. And thus I comitt your Honour, &c.

TO M^R WILKES.

Sir, I have receaved your lettres very gladly, aswell because they come from so good a frend, as also for the good advertisements

contained in the same, which are very profitable vnto my service here. I thanke you most hartely for them, and doe pray you to continew them, wherin you shall do me soche a pleasure as I shall not be able to acquit you. You are assured of my poore good will, and shalbe for ever. Brouage hathe treated of composition contrarye to the expectation of all men, and is yeelded to the King. They cannot excuse yt for want of men, victualls, or munitions. God would have yt so. The deathe of Captaine Seris, slaine in a skirmishe of late before the towne, is thought to be the only cause of the losse of the towne. Greate lykelyhood of peace; and to that purpose Mons^r Vylleroy is retorned from the King of Navarre, who sendethe hither his Deputes very shortly. God send vs a good peace, and yet no peace can be so badd as this bloody warre. Fare well, good Mr Wilks. From Poictiers, &c.

TO M^R SECRETARY WALSINGHAM.

Yt may please your Honor to be advertised that Mons^r de St. Genes and Mons^r d'Eseguyses, Deputyes for the King of Navarr, and De Pryses, Deputy for Rochell, De Scorbiavge (?) for Montauban, and Segur for Daulphin, arrived here with Mons^r de Biron, the xxijth of the last, where they have founde the King marvelously well affected to make peace with his subiects, and have resolved vpon these articles inclosed, standinge now only vpon these two points. The first for the exercise of religion in Picardye, as in all other provinces; which the King will in no wise admitt (what is meant herin your Honor can best consydyr), and the Deputyes will not be perswaded to leave yt. The seconde for the townes to be appointed for their securitye, wherein Mons^r Byron and his associates have full comission to resolute at their retorne to the King of Navarre, the Deputies beinge fully perswaded that these thinges wilbe agreeede vpon to their satisfaction, and do assure them selves

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that this peace is allredye concludid. The King hathe told them that if, all sinister affections set a parte, they would condescend to reasonable condicions, he would not fayle to keepe inviolably whatsoever was agreeede betweene them, without any modyfication, restraint, or alteracion that might in any sorte tende to the breache or diminution of this composition. I am not acquainted with these Deputyes, and in this dangerouse tyme would not procure to have any accesse vnto them, and therefore I cannot assure your Honor of the truthe of theise thinges which I have learned by other meanes, and yf I be deceaved, am deceaved with companye. Yt is said that the Deputyes report very honorably of Queen Mother, as the principall or rather author of this peace.

I have had dayly intiligence with the Deputyes by my sonne and other ministers, and have informed them of my simple opinion touchinge their proceedings. In this one thinge wee do not agree, that they thinke verily that the King in this treaty dothe not vse the counsell of the Chauncellor, the Cardinall of Guise, the Du: of Nevers, and soche other as are knowne to be ennemyes to this Peace; but dealethe only herein with his mother, his brother Byron, and Vylleroie. I pray God they be not deceaved. The dissimulations of this Court passe all vnderstandinge. I doubt this peace be made with intent to enterprise some mischeife against England or Flanders. Notwithstandinge this treaty of peace, the actions of hostility have not ceassed, the Prince of Condé havinge passed the ryver of Charent with intent to meete with the King of Navarre nere to Pont, which he hathe performed. Whereof the Du. of Mayne beinge advertised hathe pursued the Prince with all his forces vppon hope either to constraine him to fight, or to put himselfe into Pontz, and now it is certaine that they have fought without any greate hurt of either side, and the Prince is safely retyred to S^t Jeane d'Angelie. Jenissacq, a Revon that maryed Teligine's syster, was slaine in this skirmishe of the King's partye. Besides the bruite of the towne of Paris, it hathe ben nowe theise six dayes

spoken openlye in this Courte, that *the Queen of Scotts ys in the field assisted with diverse of the nobility*. Arnold, secretary to Maut Vissiere, havinge received lettres out of England by a curriare, the xxiiijth of the last, [is] said to have confirmed this rumore secretlye to his frindes; but he will confesse nothinge to me or anye of myne. De Farge, one of the brothers of the Lambouillets, and in great favoure with Monsieur, departed from hence in poste towards Paris, the xxxth of the last, and shalbe folowed by Petro Paulo and other Italians. I am given to vnderstand that his enterprise ys for Genes, and if I were not so jalouse of England and the Lowe Contries, I would easylye beleve yt. Your Honour may perchaunce learne the truthe where you are, and I will gett here what I canne.

Puygalliard is come hither this daye, and diuers of the nobilitye of the armye of Duke of Mayne are dismissed, some to their houses and some to the court, and some thinke that the Duke wilbe here shortely. And thus I comitt your Honour, &c. Poictiers, &c.

These news inclosed of Flaunders are old and stale; but because they are the newest that we have here, I ame bold to send them. Tyme did not serve me to make an other copie of this bill, and therefore yt may please your Honour to accept yt as yt is.

This bill may not be given abroad because the hand may be knowne to be some Frenchmen.

TO MY L. OF LEYCESTER.

My verye good Lord, There is great likelihode that this Peace will be made at the last, to which purpose two Deputyes for the King of Navarre, one for the Rochell, another for Montauban, and the fifthe for Daulphiné, have ben here with the King, and are said to have obtained some thinges to their good contentacion, the residew beinge referred to Biron and Vylleroy, whoe are retourned to the King of Navarre with ample comission to conclude this Peace, and now there is no talke here but of peace.

God graunt yt maye be perpetuall to the quiet and sewertie of the Protestants of this realme and theire neighbors !

My zipher to M^r Wallsingham hathe some other thinges which I dare not commit to your Lordship's zipher, and do wishe that yt would please you to give me a better.

The Duke beinge advertized that the Prince of Condé had passed the river of Charente (which he did to conferre with the King of Navarre, and did performe his intent), was in greate hope to have taken him in a pitfall.

But the Prince ys safelye arrived at S^t Jean d'Angelie, and no hurte done of ethere side, savinge that Jenissacq, a Revolt that maryed Teligine's syster, was theire slaine of the King's partye. Yt is brutyd here and received for truthe by manye that there is some troubles in England, wherein I dare say they speake as they would have yt, but I trust my contreyemen are not wearye of their welfare.

Yt ys thought that the Duke of Maine, whoe is now at Angoulesme, wilbe shortlye here, manye of the nobilitye of his armie beinge dismissed, some gone to their houses, and some come hither. And thus, &c.

TO THE EARLE OF WARRWICKE.

Sept. 1,
1577.

My verye good Lord, Yt may seeme that the Protestants make no great accompte of the losse of Brouage, beinge reported to stande as styflye vppon their first articles for the conclusion of the Peace as yf Brouage were yet in their possession. They say that the losse of La Charité, Yssoire, and Brouage, three small villages as they terme them, canne not discourage them.

Two Deputes for the King of Navarre, one for Rochell, another for Montauban, and the fifthe for Daulphiné, have ben here with the King, whoe is said to be verye well affected to this Peace, and to have graunted manie thinges alreadie to the good contentation of

the Deputes, with great hope that Commissioners shall performe some other thinges to the full conclusion of this Peace. The King of Nauarre and Prince of Condé have mette together of late by appointment nere to Pont, to which purpose the Prince beinge passed the ryver of Charente, the Duke of Maine pursued him with his armie, where ther hathe ben some small fight betweene them without great losse of either side, savinge that Jenisacq, a Revolt, that married Telligine's syster, ys slaine of the King's partie, the Prince beinge safelye retyred to Rochell. I know no other matter worthie of your Lordship at this tyme. And thus doe comitt you to the protection of the Almightye, whoe alwayes preserve your good Lordship. From Poictiers, the first of September.

TO THE QUEENES MATIE.

Yt may please your Ma^{tie} to be advertised that, havinge forborne theise fewe dayes past to dispatche any messenger towardes your Highnes, vppon hope to learne some certaintye of the proceedinges in theis treatie of Peace betwene the King and his subiectes, which hathe ben as diuerslie reported as the humors of theis Court have ben diuerse and different, a messenger beinge arrived this morninge from Mons^r Biron, yt hathe pleased the King to send Mons^r Pynart vnto me ymediatly to advertise me of the full resolucion of this Peace, sainge that like as the King was perswaded that no Prince or Princes would be more gladde to vnderstande of this singuler benefit happened vnto him then your Ma^{tie}, so he would not fayle to give advertisement thereof vnto me before any other Ambassador. Shortely after the departure of Mons^r Pynart, Mons^r Gondye comethe vnto me, whoe tellethe me that althoughe the King had sent alreadye vnto me, yet havinge occasion to send him to the other Ambassadors, bothe he and Queen Mother had commaunded him expresslye to resorte also vnto me, and to pray me to reioyce with him for this singuler blessinge of peace, the particular

conditions whereof shoulde be ymparted vnto me verye shortlye. After other ordinary ceremonies passed betweene Mons^r Gondy and me, I tould him that as yt pleased the King to doe me that favoure to be one of the first whom he would acquainte with theise gladd tydings, so I would be sorye to be the last Ambassador that should aske audience to congratulate the same with his Maiesty, prayinge him to move the King therein at his next oportunitie. Yt is not to be doubted but I shall have my audience verye shortelye. And yet, consyderinge that the speedy advertisement of this resolucion of peace may be of necessarye ymportance, and doubtinge least this audience will aske a longer tracte of tyme, I thought it most agreeable with my dutye to dispatche this messenger with theise fewe lynes. And thus I comitt your most excelent Ma^{ty} to the blessed tuicion of the Almightye, whoe graunte you a longe and happie raigne in all prosperouse felicitye. From Poictiers, &c.

TO MY L. OF LEICESTER.

My singuler good Lord, I have ben moche comforted by your lettres of the xxijth of the last, sent by Nicasius, which written at great lengthe and contaninge great plenty of good and effectuall matter, dothe wittnes plainely the continuance of your Lordship's good affection towards me, wherein I thinke my selfe very happie, havinge no other hope of the good acceptacion of my service here then yn your Lordship's favoure and protection, which I wishe to continue no longer then I shall serve her Maiesty faithfully and carefullye, and shalbe thankfull to your Lordship to the vttermost of my letle power for your manye good deserts towards me. Your Lordship is so well perswaded of me, as I trust theise proferes of my dutye and service are not greatly needefull, and yet beinge provoked by your Lordship's lettres, I may not forgett to accknowledge my thankefullnes by theise few (*Imperfect.*)

TO THE QUEENES MA^{TIE}.

Yt may please your Ma^{tie} to bee advertized, that yesterdaye about
 foure of the clocke after noone Mons^r Pynart came vnto me from
 the King to informe me that the yonge Lansacq beinge commaunded
 to make some enterprise vppon the Isle of Re, and forced by foule
 weather to staye one night at the Isle of Est, encountryd on
 Tewesdaye last with fiftie Englishe shippes accompanied with some
 shippes of Rochell, and sendinge his trumpet to signifie vnto them
 the good amytie betwene the King his master and your Ma^{tie}, and
 that yt was forbydden by open proclamacion that no straunger
 should give any mannere of aide or reliefe to those of Rochell, or
 any other the subiects of Fraunce, which were in armes against the
 King, comprisinge that yf they would make their accesse to
 Brouage they should be intertainede with all amytie, those
 Englishe men would in no wise agree to his good counsell, but
 came to blowes & were taken prysoners. That the yonge Lansacq
 dispatched a gentlman with speed to the Kinge, whoe was spoyled
 and arrested two dayes at S^t John d'Angely or there aboutes, which
 was the occasion that the newes came not sooner hyther. That
 your Maiesty had deliuered so good speache to the King's ambas-
 sador, as he assured him selfe that there was no fault in you, and
 because (said he,) you shalbe acquainted with all that the King
 doethe know herein, he hathe commaunded me to shewe vnto you
 the memoriall which he receaved from the yonge Lansacq, and then
 readd vnto me so moche thereof as concerned that matter, and was
 content to give me a copie of yt. This tale was tolde in soche couert
 termes as I might beleue yf I woulde that theis shippes were menn
 of warre, and came out of Rochell to seeke Lansacq. After I had
 perused this byll, I told hym I was very sorye to heare of this
 disorder, that I was well assured there was no fault in your Ma^{tie},
 that I trusted the King was also giltles herein, that the fault in the

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ministers was odious and not to be excused; that now the question was whoe had offended, whether the yonge Lansacq or the Englishe prysoners; that yt was strange vnto mee what offence might be comytted that should deserue ymprysoment of so manie shippes and men; that yt had not ben sen that fiftye Englishe shippes armed in warlike manner had ben so easylye taken; that yf they were poor marchantes the fault was not to be excused; that his memoriall made no mension of any other fault in the Englishe men then that they would not be obedient to yong Lansacq's comaundement; that yt did not appeare that theise shippes had ben at Rochell, or that they had ben aydinge or assistinge to the King's adversaries; that yf they had ben at Rochell yn maner of marchantes, the same did not deserve this extreme dealinge; that the Englishe marchants could not haue knowledge of the proclamacions made in Fraunce; that I had receaved lettres lately out of England, and could not learne by lettres or worde of mouthe that any Lord was departed from thence; that I would thinke him a very foolish Lord that would hazard his person in the Isle of Ré; that the matter ymported your Ma^{tie} deeply, and behoued me to aduertise yt with speede. Notwithstandinge, findinge his memoriall vnperfect, and that he could not satisfie [me] in the particularities vntyll he had spoken againe with the King, or at least with the messenger that cam from the yonge Lansacq, and beinge desirouse to know the King's pleasure in theise thinges by his owne mouthe for your Ma^{ties} better satisfaction, which I thought to be greatly requisite in a matter of this ymportance, I tolde Mons^r Pynart that whereas the King had deferred my audience vntill the comminge of the Duke of Montpensier, whoe was arrived not one houre before, yf yt would please his Ma^{tie} to give me audience the next day folowinge, I would forbear to send into England vntill I had spoken with him, but yf my audience were deferred, I prayd him to hold me excused and to provide me of my pasport, and to this end I sent him furthe with instructions for the same pasport. Mons^r Pynart, amonge other

things, told mee that the trompett which yonge Lansacq sent aborde the shippes was retained by the Englishe menn, and could not be released. A verye vnlikely tale in my symple opinion. Also he told me that the Englishmen desired no other thinge then to departe and to leaue their shippes. I answered that all men preferred libertye before shippes or other goodes. This tale savorethe as yf they had a meaninge to retaine their shippes, and by theise meanes to be before hand yf your Ma^{ty} wilbe angrie. I asked him how manye Englishe men had ben slaine in this fight. Hee said none as he thought. This arguethe (quod I,) that they made no resistence, and then no cause whie they should be caried away prysoners. I asked him how yt came to passe the shippes of England and Rochell beinge together, as ys mentioned in the memoriall, that the shippes of Rochell escapede and the Englishe shippes onely were taken. Then he was constrained to saye that he must conferre againe with the messenger to be better informed of the certaintye of theise thinges, sayinge that the memoriall was made in hast, and therefore could not be plaine or perfet. Yn deede yt was made in soche haste as yt had no date at all, and therefore when or where yt was made, God knowethe. Yt is not to be doubted but that this advertisement came to the Kinge three or four dayes past, so as they haue had good leasure to deliberate of their doinges. In the eveninge Arnold, secretarye to the Frenche ambassador, signified vnto mee from Mons^r Pynart that he had moved the King for my audience; that the next morninge the King would conferre with his counsell touchinge theise matters; that after noone he shoulde be busyed with the Duke of Monpensier and the Deputyes of the King of Navarre; that the next day being xxvth of this present I should haue audience; that yf anye Frenche subiects had attempted any thinge to the disturbance of the good amytie betweene theise two realmes, the King woulde not fayle to punyshe him with extremytie. I answered that I was to receive my audience at the King's pleasure

and leasure; that one day ymported moche in a matter of this ymportance; that yt behoved me to vse no delay in this advertisement, and therefore prayed him to request Mons^r Pynart to provide me of my passport in the morninge. Yf I haue offended in refusinge to forbear this advertisement vntill I had conferred with the King, I submytt my selfe most humbly to your Majesty's correction, wherein yt may please your Highnes to accept my good and faithfull meaninge for some parte of excuse. Uppon my next audience with the King I shall haue occasion to write mor certeinlye and more largely. And thus I leave to trouble your Highnes, with my most hartly prayers to the Almightye that yt may please him to preserve you from the dangerouse practises of your malicious nighbours, whiche will comme to passe yf your Maiestie be as jelous of their treasons and treacheries as they haue ben of your plaine, rounde, and frindelye dealinge. From Poictiers, &c.

Post script.—Yt may please your Ma^{ty} to be advertised that theise lettres beinge written, signed, and nowe readye to be sent, John Goyd, burser of a shippe belonging to Mr. Henry Sackford, accompanied with one other servaunt to the said Mr. Sackford, and taken by the yonge Lansacq with the other Englishemen shippes arrived here, and havinge taken the examination of the said Goyd in writtinge for my better instructions, haue thought good to send him into England with my messenger, as well for your Ma^{ty} more ample informacion of all the circumstances belonginge, as also for a better discharge in a matter ymportinge your Ma^{ty} so moche in honor and reputation, and your Highnes' subiects in profitt and sewertie, beinge informed by the other Englishe man arrived here with this bourser, that the yonge Lansacq hathe donne manye notable iniuries of late to the Englishe marchants, as well in constrainyng them to pay sondrye newe impositions, as also in the spoyle of their muni-tions and victualles, havinge at this present (as he sayethe,) one Englishe shippe in his companie, which he found in the ryver of Boudeaux, and forced to serue him.

TO MR WALSINGHAM.

Yt may please your Honor to be advertised that the Ambassador of Fraunce hathe a servant folowinge this Court and now in some discredite with his master for his liberall expenses, and yet continueth in his service. This fellow hathe reported to Jacomo that Nippville escaped out of pryson in this order. Arnolde, Secretary to the Frenche Ambassador, provided him of files, syzers, ropes, and other instruments necessarye for his purpose, by meane whereof he made his waye into the streete, leavinge his chambre felowe sleeping, whom he would have slaine yf he had awaked. As he passed throwe the streete he was taken by the watche twice, but was deliuered, and at the lengthe not without some difficultye camme to the French Ambassador's house, wher he stayed by the space of certaine dayes, and then was conveyed into Dover disguised after the Flemishe maner, where he shipped himselfe in a barcke of Calays which camme thether purposelye for him. This informer reporteth that he vsed all meanes possible to obtaine licence from the King to goe to the seas, which the King would in no wise graunt, and that notwithstanding he is departed from hence with full resolution to goe to the seas, and verie maliciouslye affected against the Englishe nation.

Besides the companie of footemen which are with the yonge Lansacq and four companie of Swisses retourned to the Court, there are dispersed here and there in the contrye, within seven or eight leagues of this towne, tenne Frenche companies of the King's guards, thre companies of Lanceknights, and fortye other companies or thereabouts, vnder the leadinge of foure Colonells.

I am credyibly advertised that La Roche is not yet gone to the seas, neither in any readines for his voyage.

Yt is said that the Kinge of Spaine's fleet ys safely arrived out of the Indies with great store of money.

Yt seemethe worthie to be noted that the Peace beinge concluded at Bovgercq the xiiij of this present, and the King knowinge (no doubt) longe before that the Peace would take his full effect the xvjth, the yonge Lansacq takethe seas with his navie to spoile the Isle of Rets. Manie good menn are alreadie discouraged to expect any good successe of this patched Peace. The Frenche have not robbed ther owne contreye so fast by land as they will now spoyle the subiectes of other contries by seas, wherin our marchants are to be admonished, whoe no doubt will feelee the smart of yt.

The yonge Lansacq laked marchants for his salt at Brouage, and this was the occasion of this disorder comytted by him, yf I be not deceived. And this, &c.

Sythence the writtinge and signinge of this lettre, John Tvpper is arrived out of Bryttaine, where he hathe pervsed all the havenes and crekes betweene Nantes and Morlais, and fyndethe no other preparations for the seas then soche as are made by marchants, savinge that La Roche hathe two shippes at the seas, accompanied with one shippe belonginge to the Captaine of Brest and two barks of Marane, spoyllinge and robbinge all that passe by that coast, La Roche beinge at his house and his new shippe vnfurnished, and is not knowne that he doethe intent any voyage shortly.

Yt may please your Honour to acquaint my Lord of Leycester with this advertisement, because his Lordship wrote vnto me expresslye of late to explore the doinges of La Roche. John Tupper hathe hard in these journey, but cannot assure yt, that Fytzmoris hathe ben of late at S^t Malo, and is gonne to the seas with one onlye shippe, but what course he takethe he cannot learne, &c.

TO M^R WALSINGHAM.

Yt may please your Honor to be advertized that, havinge now sealed my pacquet and my messenger ready to take his horse, Mons^r La Mothe Fenelon, accompanied with Mons^r de Vyllere, one

of the masters of request to the King, came vnto me from his Ma^{ty}, his whole speache tendinge to the justification of the King in this last accident to the yonge Lansacq, and to the declaracion of his owne particuler affection to nourishe and conserve good amytie betwene those two Crownes, concludinge with the comendacion of hir Ma^{ty} with her singuler vertues. I answered him to like effecte, and moche speache passed betwene vs, in the defence of our contrary causes, yn frendly and reasonable termes, concludinge of either parte to preferre the good amytie betweene theise two Crownes before any particuler wronges. Yn the end he deliuered vnto me this bill enclosed, which I promised to send to her Ma^{ty}.

The Peace was proclaymed here this day in generall termes. Yt is said that the King departethe from hence on Monday next, and doth make no longe staye in anye place vntill his cominge to his house of Dolinville besides Paris. And thus &c.

TO MR WALSINGHAM.

Whereas your Honor desirethe to be advertised yf I did give a horse to the yonge Vere, I begine to doubt herein if my doinges haue ben brought in question, and shall not be quiet vntill I heare from you of the trew cause of this your motion, wherof I shall most humbly pray you, not doubtinge but the truethe of the matter will defend me against the malice of the envious. The two yonge Veres came to this towne accompanied with Denny and Williams, and after two or three dayes the elder Vere and Williams came vnto me (the yonge Vere and Denny I did not see,) and after some wordes of courtesie this Vere told me that he came into this contrye with intent to serve in the warres, and findinge the armye of Monsieur broken, and thereby frustrat of his expectation, was constrained to retorne to Parys, and beinge vnprovided of money to hire post-horses, should be constrained to make this voyage on his fete onleat I did provide him of some remedye, and therefor desired mee to doe

him the pleasure to bestow a horse vpon him, sayinge that he doubted not but that the Earle of Oxford would be thankefull vnto me for yt. I answered I had not so many horses as I had servants, that I was subiect to dayly removes, that I was farre from any meane to recouer new horses, and therfore might not well spare the horses which I had alreadye. He confessed me he was very bold with me vpon so small acquaintance (as in deed I had never seen him before), but was constrained therevnto by necessytie, wherof he prayed me to haue soche consyderacon as I might. I told him that I would be ashamed for the honor of my contreye and for the reputacion of the Earle of Oxford that he should goe to Paris on fete, and therefore would provide him of an amblinge nagge which would bee good ynnoughe and great ynoughe to carye him to Paris, trustinge that he did not loke for a horse of service at my handes, which I could not spare in theise dangerous tymes. I caused the horse to be deliuered to this gentleman accordinge to my promis, whoe sold him the next daye and prayd M^r Locke (whoe was then here and hathe said this moche to some of my servants) to say nothinge of this horse to my Lord of Oxford. The askinge of the horse so earnestlye, the sellinge of him so sodainelye, and his vnwillingnes that my Lord of Oxford shoulde knowe that he had ben anye way behouldinge vnto me, doe decipher the disposition of the gentleman. God send him better companie to make him a better man! Thus I haue deliuered vnto you truly and faithfullye how and in what manner this horse was given, and now yt may please you to give me leave to answere an obiection, which perchaunce is not ment or intendede. Yt may be said that, knowinge his intencion to serve the Kinge's partie, vnder the leadinge of the Duke of Guys, I ought not to haue given him anye aid or succoure. Surelye yf he had ben my kinsman or familiar frind, I wold not haue fayled to haue diswaded the voyage, but others had been recommended not longe before by great personages of England, to serve here in like sorte, and M^r Locke had told mee that those

only had the reputation amonge the nobilitye of the courte that sought to serve the King's side, and therefore, in my symple opinion, I had playd the foole yf I hade made a quarell of this matter, which did nether touche me nor ymport the cause to any purpose, and yet you may be assured no man might perswade me to geve to any man anye matter mete for service in this case. And to be plaine with you, I was not sorye to see some yonge felowes, especiallie soche as were of no great countenaunce or service, to ioynе themselues with the King's partie, which might serve to have excused the yonge

and soche others as M^r Locke said to be then readie to goe to Rochell, and haue ben affirmed that yonge felowes sought there as best liked them, and that soche as served the Frenche King were not misliked by her Ma^{ty}, and, indeed, I did help my selfe with this argument yn my speache with Queene Mother about that tyme, as may appere by my lettres, I am jalous of my poore creditt, which maketh me to be so troblesome vnto you, not doubtinge but that your Honor will pardon me in a greater fault.

The Duke of Monpensyer arrivinge here yesterday I trusted to have had audience this day of the King, but newe occasions have deferred my audience, and haue caused this sodeine dispatche, as may appeare vnto your Honor by this copie inclosed of my lettres to her Ma^{ty}, sent herwithall. And thus I recommend my selfe wholie vnto you, as one that is and wilbe alwayes yours at comaundement. Poitiers, 24 Sept.

TO MY LORD OF LEICESTER.

My very good Lord, I cannot thanke your Lordship ynnoughe for your honorable and frendly advertizment touchinge the French Ambassador, yn which behalfe yt may please your Lordship to assure your selfe that no Frenche or Scotishe man lyvinge hathe or shall make his profytt [of] mee duringe my beinge in Fraunce. And, good my Lord, beleve yt vppon my word, I have learned to

helpe my selfe by strangers as I may; but alwayes to be assured that they have no meane to do me hurt yf they would, wherein I have ben so curious as, if I have offended, yt hathe ben of that side. My jalouse and suspicious nature in all matters concerninge my Prince and contrye will keepe me from this daunger, fearinge rather to take hurt by trustinge to lettles then by trustinge to moche. And as I may be bold to affirme that no straunger can make his advantage of any speache passed from me, sythence my comynge into this contrey, so I dare assure your Lordship that I am not deceaved of those straungers with whom I deale. And in deed I have found so fewe, sythence my cominge from Paris, that will or dare come neere me, or any belonging vnto mee, that yt hathe ben more easye for me to judge of their humors and dispositions, and my fault is the greater yf I have ben deceived. Yt is most certaine that I haue no famyliare acquaintance with any of the King's chamber, or that is neere to his person by any office, wherein the Ambassador is moche deceaved, and I am sorry for yt. Yf yt would please them to deale so familiarlie with me, surelie they should be welcome. And yet to give some couloure of excuse to the Ambassador, and perchance not vniustlie, the truth is that I have mette with twoe of this kind of men, the one at my first arrivall at Paris, recommended vnto me by M^r. Dale, vnder his owne hand, for assured and faithfull, the other the Ambassador of Venice, arrived here in this last monethe of June; the one of theise hathe ben hired, and the other intreated vppon hope of gaine to make his profytt of me. The first a man of meane callinge, a Fleminge borne, havinge no other livinge then Queen Mother's liberalitie; a matter sufficient of yt selfe to make him worthie of suspicion. Shortlie after the departure of M^r. Dale, this man comethe vnto me twice or thrice in every weeke, and bringethe vnto me the ordinary newes of the Palace, and, amonge other thinges, tellethe me that he was of the Religion, althoughe the malice of the tyme did force him to dissemble yt, prayethe me to

thinke well of him, and because (sayeth he,) you shall not mistrust me, I pray receive only that I will tell you, and say nothinge againe vnto mee. When I consydered of his atheisme, and of his lustie maner of dealinge with me vppon so lettele acquaintance, I began to mistrust him, and shortely after he was deciphered vnto mee by my honest frendes dwellinge in Paris. Yt was ynoughe that I knew him, and dissemblinge my knowledge, did not forbear to vse him, fyndinge his necessitie to be soche as, to be fyngeringe some tyme of a small peece of money, he was contented to play of bothe handes. I lived with him in this sorte vntill the latter end of June last past, at which tyme fyndinge that this state grewe to be jalouse of England, and that all my actions were narowlie searched, and seinge this felow to repaire daylie vnto me, I doubted least the opinion that might be conceived of his credytt with me would breede me more discredyt then his intelligence might doe me pleasure, and therefore, resoluinge to lose him, required him to come no more vnto mee. The felow, perceivinge a great part of his credytt with Queen Mother, or rather the better porcion of his lyvinge, to depend vppon the opinion of his credytt with mee, hathe sought all meanes possible to be restored to my favoure, as Mr. Throckmorton cann tell your Lordship, whom he intreated to request me in this behalfe, because he did ones a good point of service vnder his father. Yt may please your Lordship to thinke that if I had ben deceived of him duringe this whole tyme, I would be hartely sorye for yt, but would not be ashamed of yt, beinge not the first that hathe ben abused, and yt had ben ynoughe for me that he had drawne nothinge frome me, which fault indeed were not to be excused. And because your Lordship shall not thinke that I pretend to haue espied his treacheries onlie for my better excuse, Jacomo, Dannett, and my sonne cann wittnes with mee how longe sythence I discovered his lewdnes, and Mr Throckmorton dothe know how often I haue told him that he was a spie for Queene Mother, and therefore should beware of him. Yf the

Ambassador grownd his tale vppon this felowe, he is farre wyde of the marke. This other gentlman chanced to arrive here in this last monethe of June, in which tyme the suspicions of this contrey against our State did begynne to appeare, and thinkinge to wyn the spurres at his first cominge, at the third meetinge betwene vs made great loue towardes mee; he would deale openlie with me; there was no cause of jalousie betwene England and Venice; he comended my Queene and Contrey to the skies; he would not fayle to see England after his dismission from hence; fynally he came so fast vppon mee, that he gave me iust cause to suspect him. Shortly after he offerethe to ride abroad with me when I would, which no other Ambassador would haue donne by any intreatie duringe two monethes and more, although I did visyt them some tymes in their houses, and they were content to acquite me with the like. The tyme of his resort vnto mee so well chosen, either assone as I had anie currier out of England, or when I intended to aske awdiencie; his seekinge at one tyme what I had to saye, his readines at an other tyme to tell me some thinges which indeede the Kinge would haue me to beleewe before my cominge vnto him; his questions so fytt for the purpose; fynally, the whole cours of his actions, did bewray his faithfull service to the French Kinge. Yt may please your Lordship to know that the last Ambassador for Venice, who departed from hence in June last past, was a trew and faithfull servant to this State; the King and Queene Mother esteemed of him as of one of their principall councelors, and no doubt he did them verye acceptable service, aswell in tyme past as also at this wynter to my knowledge. Besides his other rewardes, which were verye honorable, the Kinge gaue him, at his departure, a ringe from his fynger of great value. This man aspieth to the like, but he cannot do yt with like dexteritie. I like him well, and his frendship hath donne me great pleasure many wayes, and shall hereafter, I doubt not; and yet, before my departure out of this contrey, I would be gladd Queene Mother did know that her snares

have ben discouered. I haue declared my knowledge and opinion herein vnto Jacomo, Danet, and my sonn longe sythence, and yet seuerallye so as neither of them doethe knowe yt [of other] then himself, which may serve to discharge mee that I haue not devised this longe tale by way of excuse.

Thus, as one very carefull to satisfie your Lordship in any thinge that may concerne my poore credytt, I haue ben bold to trouble you with a longe and tedious discours, most humbly prayinge your Lordship ether to rent the same in peeces assone as you haue redd yt, or else to keepe yt in your owne safe custodie, thinkinge vnmeet, yn my symple opinion, that any servant should be acquainted with theise thinges, and yet I would not be sory yf yt would pleasure your Lordship to ympart this matter to M^r Walsingham. And to conclude, I may be bould to assure your Lordship that no other then theise two hathe dealt trayterouslie or synisterlie with mee. I do not doubt but that my servants doe meet daylie at the Court, and in other places, with soche felowes as wilbe content to give them chalke for cheese; but I allow of that servant that will report all that he heareth, good and badd, trewe and false, and leaue yt to the iudgement of the master; and yt provethe trew, by daylie experience, that the advertizement of surmises and suspicions is often necessary, althoughe the certaine trewthe may not bee attayned. And thus, most humbly prayinge your Lordship of your good advise and frendlie admonicion vppon all occasions occurringe, I commytt your Lordship to the mercifull tuicion of the Almightye, &c.

TO MY LORD TREASORER.

My verie good Lord, I haue dispatched this bearer so sodeinlie vppon a message received this last eveninge from the King that I haue no leasure to write to your Lordship at greater lengethe, and in deed haue no other thinge worthie of you then ys conteyned in

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my lettres to her Ma^{ty} which I know wilbe ymparted vnto your Lordship. Yt may be feared least theire Peace abroad will make warre at home; the Frenche havinge alreadie entered into some action of hostilitie against vs as may appeare by my said lettres. I would haue ben gladde to haue had audience of the King before the dispatche of this messenger, whervppon the full state of the whole matter appearinge vnto her Ma^{ty} her resolucion had ben the more easie, but this audience comminge at leasure, I thought yt agreeable with my dutie to vse no delay in this advertizment. And thus restinge at your Lordship's comaundement I commytt you to the mercifull tuicion of the Almightye. Poictiers, &c.

TO MASTER TREASURER.

Yt may please your Honor to accept theise shorte lettres. I am ashamed to excuse [myself] towards you, and yet the trewth will defend me, havinge ben constrainned to dispatche this messenger with soche speed vppon a message this last eveninge from the King that I haue wanted leasure to write to her Ma^{ty} as I would. The Peace ys made at home soche as yt is, and now they are ready to make warre abrode; I pray God England do not feele them before yt looke for them! Yt is of necessitie that Frenche souldiers most be ymployed in some forreyne warre. Our contrie is neerest, the ancient quarrell will neuer be forgotten, new quarells are easilie forged, and therefore we shall doe well to provide for the worst, and to trust them as we fynde them! The Duke of Monpensier arrived here yesterday, and with him many Deputes from the King of Navarre. The Vicont of Tourayn, a noble gentleman and a zelous Protestant, hathe ben hurt of late by one Lymouyl his neerest kinsman, but ys now in good hope of recouery. And here I am forced to take my leaue of you for this tyme; comyttinge, &c.

TO MY LORD OF WARWICK.

My verie good Lord, This sodeine conclusion of peace hathe restored this realme to soch quietnes, as now there is no occasion to make longe advertizment, all actions of hostilitie beinge ceased, and every man reioycinge with his frend and kinsman of this happie tranquillitie. The King pretendethe great synceritie in the observation of this Edicte, and many have great hope that he dealethe plainelie and rowndly. The French fidelitie hathe ben so spotted in tyme past that many (no doubt) will hold yt suspected, vntill tyme the maystres of trewth shall bringe furthe good fruite of their integritie. The eyes, or rather the hartes, of all men here are sett vppon Flanders, and your Lordship may beleaue that theise Frenche armies, so latelie broken, shall not be idle; yea, I think yt is of necessitie that they must be ymployed. The Vicont Towrayne hathe ben trayterouslie and dangerouslie hurt of late by his neerest kinsman called Lymouyll, whose duringe this last treatie of peace, and when the same was holden to be agreede, laye in ambushe for him, and [made] full accompt to haue slayne him, butt here is great hope of his recouerye. This Vicont is accompted almost the onlie gentlman that hathe ben trulie converted to religion in Fraunce theise seven yeaes. I know no other matter worthie of your Lordship at this present. And thus I comytt, &c.

TO MY LORD OF SUSSEX.

My verie good Lord, My poore good will shalbe alwayes readye to doe youre Lordship all the service that may lye in my leetle power; but the meane to acknowledge the same by writinge, is now taken away by this conclusion of peace, which hath reduced this estate to soche quietnes, as yt mynistrethe no occasion of advertizment worthie

of your Lordship. There is now no talke here but of Flaunders, and owre hartes are theire alreadie, and perchance our handes and feet may goe after very shortlie.

The Frenche hathe lived so longe without discipline that his owne contrey cann no longer abide him, and yt is of necessitie that he most be ymployed in some forreyne warre. Theire is question at this present of many voyages by land and sea. The court hathe no other talke, every man accordinge to his humor and disposicion. Theise thinges will not breake out vntill, the Peace beinge published, the regiment of the late armies shalbe clearlie broken. Then I trust to learne some new thinge, not vnmeet for your Lordship. Yt hathe ben receiued here for a matter of truthe that the Vicont of Towraine was slayne, vntill his lettres written to the King with his owne hand did assure him that he yet lived and trusted to live to do him some good service. Lymouyl, a Papist and his nerest kinsman, lay in ambush for him, and fyndinge the matche to be for his advantage sett on him with intent to haue killed him before the publication of the Peace. We kill in France we care not howe, where, or yn what order, so it be for our pleasure or profit. God graunt a good assured continual peace may amend yt! And thus, &c.

TO MY LORD ADMIRALL.

My verie good Lord, I haue forborne to write to your Lordship of late, vppon advertizment of your absence from the Court, not doubtinge but that your Lordship is more then perswaded that when I write I am at your comaundment, and when I forbear to write I am no lesse at your devotion, and so I trust your Lordship dothe accompt of mee and may be assured so to fynd me vppon all occasions occurringe. I thanke youre Lordship most humblie for your lettres of the
of this present, which bynd me not onlie to write againe but also to write at lengthe of all that is worthie of advertizment. But

the truthe is, that this sodeine conclusion of peace hathe taken away all occasions of new and strange actions, so as no other newe thinge is now to be found here, but this new peace only. God graunt yt be a good peace, and that yt may longe contynew to his glory, to the comfort of his Church, and to the quietnes of all Christiane Realmes! The Vicont of Towraine hathe ben dangerouslie hurt of late by one Lymouyll, his nerest kinsman, whoe lay in ambushe for him, and made full accompt to haue slayne him. But the Vicont hath written to the Kinge verie latelie that he trustethe to live to do him some good service. Yt is beleevd here that the Kinge departethe from hence towards Paris this next weeke, but some say that Queene Mother will see the King of Navarre. And thus restinge at your commaundement, I comytt your good Lordship to the tuition of the Almightye. Poitiers, &c.

TO DOCTOR WYLSON.

Sir, I canne not expresse vnto you the comfort which I received of your lettres of the xxiiijth of the last, wishinge that all my contrie-men were likewise affected, and specialie soche as are in place and calinge to doe good or hurt, and then our known and professed enymies would not be so malepert, and good and faithfull frendes would be planted in their romes. Yt must be confessed that all fleshe is subiect to errours and oversight, but that man is iustlie accompted happie that havinge comytted dangerous faults doethe not receive his deserved punishment. I will not dispute what England hathe donne, or what yt hathe deserved; but this I know, that by the goodnes of the Almightye new occasions are ministred vnto vs daylie to repaire all former faults, and to make amendes for all that is passed. And this I accompt to be trew happines, yf we canne be so happie to receive God's blessinge with thankfulness, and now at the last to awake out of this dangerous slomber of

securitie, a dangerous counselor in theise perilous dayes, and especialye at this tyme, when we must trust to our yndustry and diligence, and may not looke to be preserved by the harmes of our neighbours. The Peace is concluded betweene the Kinge here and his subiects, and now there is no talke but of Flanders, and perchaunce wee may mount by degrees from wordes to deedes. Of this you shall heare more hereafter. And in this meane tyme I comytt youe, good Mr. Wylson, to the mercifull protection of the Almightye. Poitiers, &c.

To M^R TOMSON.

S^r, I haue ben [so] well informed of your good affection towards me, that I doe not feare to crave your frendshippe in any honest and reasonable cause, and yet if I were not as well perswaded of youre good iudgement and goodlie zeale in matters of religion, I would not trouble you at this tyme. Mr. Wake came into this contrey with me as you knowe, and fyndinge his wife with child at that tyme, when I was likelie to haue folowed the camp I know not whither, was forced to leaue me, and indeed youe know how ympossible yt is for a woman in that state to folowe a Frenche progresse, and especially in this troublsome tyme. Ymediatly after the departure of Master Wake, I sent for one of my servantes to com to me from Jersay, and beinge informed by him of a minister, well learned, of good conversation, and vnmarried, which was then there, I retourned my servant with my lettres, prayinge this mynister to make his speedy repaire vnto me, and to that purpos sent him a horse. I made full accompt of this man, and looked daylie for him, when at the last my horse was brought againe vnto me, and answer retourned that this man, vppon a sodeine occasion, ymportinge him deepe lie, was departed towards Englande not aboue two dayes before the arrivall of my messenger. By this occasion I am vnprovided of a mynister, and trustinge to remove shortelie to Paris, and there to

spend this whole wynter, I would be very sorye that my greate houshold should contynew any longer without a sheperde. And therefore reposing my selfe vppon your good iudgment, I shall pray you to se yf you can heare of any that you shall thinke to bee fytt for mee. Yt is of necessitie that he must be vnmaryed, or at the least most leaue his wife in England; yt were to be wished that he had at the least some vnderstandinge in the French tongue for his better conference with the Frenche ministers, whereof many are not best able to vtter there mynde in Lattyn; doe you not spare me for his intertainment. Thus you see how bouldly I deale with you, as one that makethe great account of your good frendshippe; where you shall haue occasion to vse me, you shall doe me a great pleasure to vse me boldlie. And thus I comytt you, good M^r Tomson, to the mercifull tuicion of the Almightye. From Poitiers, the 24 Septem: 1577.

TO MY LORD KEEPER.

My verie good Lord, I trust your Lordship will thinke no lewdness in me that I haue not troubled you more often with my lettres. Wherein I would have vsed greater diligence, yf I had not presumed of youre Lordship's good opinion of me, which I trust to be so well grownded, that you will not condemne me for this negligence, and shall most humblie pray your Lordship to thinke that when I write I am wholie at your Lordship's comaundement, and when I doe not write I am the same. Your Lordship's absence from the Court and London duringe this tyme of vacation, hathe ben the principall cause of my slaknes.

The actions of hostilitie in theise partes are vtterlie ceassed, the peace beinge concluded between the Kinge and his subiects. God graunt yt be don with soche synceritie, as becomethe the word, promise, and oathe of an annoynted King! This Peace is received

with great joy, and great hope is conceived of contynewance thereof. The King will haue the honor of this Peace, and sayeth yt ys a Peace of his owne makeinge and he will keepe yt. And now the eyes of this contrey are all tourned vppon the troubles of the Low Contreyes, but what course the Frenche will take in this matter is not yet certainelie knowen. This quiet tyme dothe give me no occasion to trouble your Lordship with longe lettres, onlie I must tell you that I reioyce moche to se that your sonne, my companion, hathe, by the grace of God, passed the brunt and perill of this journey ; whereof I ame the more gladd, because in the begynninge of theise last trobles yt pleased your Lordship to referr his contynuanee with me to my consyderation. I thanke God theise dangers ar past, and your sonne is safe, sownd, and in good healthe, and worthie of your fatherlie favoure. And thus, &c.

TO THE QUEENES MATIE.

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27, 1577.

Yt may please your Ma^{ty} to be aduertized that havinge accesse to the King, the 25th of this present, I declared vnto him, that as yt had pleased him to doe me that favoure to be one of the first whom he had acquainted with the gladd tydings of the conclusion of peace betwene him and his subiectes, so I had not fayled to advertise your Ma^{ty} thereof with expedicion, and did assure him that no Prince or Princesse would receive theise newes with greater joye. I told him that nothinge was more certaine then that betwen good assured frendes all thinges were comon, frendshipp and disfrendshippe, pleasures and displeasures, prosperities and adversities, good and yll. And, therefore, for the good intelligence and syncere amytye that is now and had contynewed so longe tyme between theise two Realmes, his Ma^{ty} ought not to doubt but that youre Highnes did participat with him in all his felicities, as one that wisheth all honor and prosperitie to his crowne and person. I sayd yt was beleevd by

many that this Peace was a peace of his owne makinge, moved thervnto by his owne compassion of his good and naturall subiects, which were so miserable and vnmercifully spoyled in so many parts of his realme; that he could not now saye that the violence of vnnaturall subiects, or the fury of strange forces, had constrained him to yeeld to vnreasonable condicions; the Protestants had no armie in the field against him; no forreyn power was expected; the articles of this were (I doubted not) for the most part of his owne choise and makinge, so as all men constantly beleeve, that as he alone had ben the onlie authore of this Peace, so he would not fayle to see yt observed inviolablie, whereof would ensue honor and reputation to himself, wealth and quietnes to his subiects, the stranger would feare hym, the French would honor hym, and the world would judge him worthie of his princelie crowne, yf his faithe and promyse were vnto him in steed of a lawe, and his oathe regarded as an oracle. I concluded with my hartie prayer, that yt [might] please God to blesse him in this course, and that the successe of this Peace might be to the glory of the Almighty, the honor of his Ma^{ty}, the comfort of his neighbours, and the benefytt of his realme, affirminge that I doubted not to live so longe to see him a happie Kinge of obedient subiects, and to see his subiects live happilie, quietly, and in all boldnes and synceritye, vnder his faithfull and mercifull gouernment.

Yn deed (saith the Kinge) this is my Peace, and I made yt, and I haue gyven yt this name, to be called my Peace, and will not fayle to observe yt; he told me he had sayed to the Deputies of the Kinge of Navarre when they were last here that if they desire peace they should deale rowndlie, propone reasonable condicions, and should not seeke to force him by power and violence; that they should not deale with him as he that holdethe his neighbour by the throte, and constraynethe him to doe and say what pleaseth him; that he would not make a peace of six monthes, or of one yeare or two, but would make a peace of contynewance which should not be violated; that he desired no other thinge of his subiects,

then their due obedience; that he referred their consciences to God and them selves; that, although he wished all his subjects to concur with him in religion, yet he would be loath to buy their reformation with the spoyle of his Kingdom; that he would take straight order for the punishment of soche as would attempt to violat this Edict in anie part; that he had his faith and promise in singuler recomendacons, and would make yt so to appeare to all the world, by good effects; that I had said well to him in that point, and [he] did knowe yt to be vndoubtedlie trewe; that he found by experience that duringe these troubles he had onlie the name and tytle of a Kinge, but did not enioy the benefytt of his kingdome; that your Ma^{ty} had alwayes exhorted him to make peace with his subjects; that your counsell was good, frendlie, and honoreable; that he had alwayes honored you, but was so vexed and tormented with these syuyll (civil) troubles, that his frendshippe could stand you in no steed; that he trusted this Peace would restore his realme to his former dignitie, and give him power and abilitie to doe you some pleasure; that, as your Highnes reioyced with him in this singuler blessinge, so he was readie to doe you the like offices in all your felicities; that he assured himselfe of your good amytie, and prayed me to assure your Ma^{ty} to find the like of his part towardes you vppon all occasions occurringe.

I replied that, although I was alreadie perswaded of his sinceritie touchinge this Peace, and had advertised no lesse to your Ma^{ty}, yet I knew yt wold be comfortable vnto you when I should assure you from his owne mouthe, that this Peace was his peace, that he had made yt, that he had giuen yt this name to be called his peace, and that he woulde obserue yt inviolable. I told him that the contynewance of this peace would make him happie at home, and his neighbours happie abroad, whoe had their parts of the badd fruitts of these cyvill warres, and concluded that I was verie gladd to see him so well affected towardes your Highnes, and so well perswaded of your good affection towardes him.

And now I would haue entered into other matters, but he prevented me; no doubt of purpose, as after yt appeared; and tellethe me that he had sent Pynart and La Mothe Fenelon to informe me of that which had happened betwene the yonge Lansaque and your Ma^{ties} subiects; that he was not yet well assured of the truthe of the circomstances; that he should heare more shortelie; that he would not fayle to take order in yt accordinge to reason; that he might affirme boldelie there was no fault in him; and that if there were fault in his ministers, he would see yt redressed.

I answered that in deed Mons^r La Mothe Fenelon and Mons^r Pynart had ben with me, and thanked his Ma^{ty} most humblie that yt had pleased him to acquaint me with this matter; I told him I had heard nothinge since my comyng into this contreye that grieved me more; that I found good and sincere amytie betwene theise two Realmes at my cominge hyther; that I desired aboue all thinges, not onlie to nourishe and conserue but also to increase the same yf yt were possible; that I should thinke my selfe an vnhappie man, yf duringe my beinge here the good intelligence betwene your Ma^{ty} and him should breake or dymynish; that theise doinges of the yong Lansaque were very dangerous, and tended to no other end then to disturbe the good peace and quietnes which hath con-tynewed so longe betwene theise two Crownes; that ymprysonments, chaines and fetters of iron, eatinge, drinkinge, and lyinge amonge galley-slaves, raynsomes, constraint to borowe money to buy their owne goodes, and soche other like and vnfrendlie offices, to be vsed and offered to your Ma^{ties} subiects, were vnworthie of the good and perfect amitie betweene you and him; that theise actions of hostilitie were more meete to be practized against forreyne enemyes and domesticall rebelles, then against good frendes [and] alyes; that the carynge away of so manye Englishe shippes and sobiects as in triumphe of a iust victorie against lawfull enemyes, seemed to sound moche to the dishonor of your Ma^{ty}; that your Highnes could not take yt well; that I would not presume to define what repara-

cion your Ma^{ty} would require in a wronge that touched you so highelie, and yet for the great desire I had that all occasions were avoyded that might tend to the breache or to the dyminution in any jote of the good amytie betwene your Ma^{ty}. I wished that all theise Englishe shippes and subiects were quietlie deliuered with their goods and ladinge. I told him that I was now trulie informed of all the circumstances of this facte, by one that was bourser in the best shippe of the Englishe companie, whoe, to be deliuered of his claymes [chaynes?] and of his companions the gallislaves, offered to the young Lansacq, first so moche of his ordinance as might amount to the valewe of the money which was demaunded of him, then so moche of his salt, and lastelie hauinge charge of two shippes offered one of his shippes with her ordinance and ladinge, and yet his officers could not be recouered, but in the end had a passport to goe to Rochell to seeke money, and from thence is comme hyther vnto me. I assured the Kinge that the informacion which he had received from the yong Lansacq was verie partiall, and therefore prayed him to reserve one eare for your Ma^{ty}. I haue acquainted you (sayethe the Kinge,) with as moche as I haue received, and, vppon conference of this matter with my counsell, haue resolved to be better informed verie shortlie. And then he called Mons^r. Pynart vnto him, and repeated before all that he had sayed vnto me herein. Mons^r. Pynart beganne to declare what had ben resolved that morninge by the counsell, but the King interrupted him. Then I told the King before Mons^r. Pynart, that he could not looke to haue the truthe from thence, onleaste he sent some discreet personages from hence, which, without partialitie, would examyne this matter with sinceritie; which the King promised to doe, and to confer with his counsell ymediatlie for his better proceedinge herein. I said I doubted not he would confesse that the Englishe shippes had good reputation throughe out all Christendome, and therefore prayed him to consydere that yf theise fortie or fiftie shippes had comme out

of England with intent to ayd [and] assist his rebells, or to do anie to his preiudice, they had ben able (no doubt) to haue done somewhat that might haue misliked him, which sufficed to proue that they had no part or portion with his enemyes, and as good subiects to your Ma^{ty} would not contend with your alyes, and indeede did not looke to receive from his mynisters anie other thinge then good frendshippe. I canne say no more (sayethe the Kinge,) vntill I heare further, and indeed I perceived by him that he was verie willinge to heare no more of the matter; and in all this discours [he] did not vtter one word in the defence of the yonge Lansacq's doinges. I concluded that, for the singuler desire I had to conserue theise two Realmes in their good and ancient amytie, I could doe no lesse than once againe to pray him to consyder deepele of this facte, and to give no iust cause of offence to your Ma^{ty}. Surelie I doubt moche what wilbe the end of this matter, vnderstandinge that bothe the Courte and Counsell are devided herein, the yong Lansacq havinge manie partisanes which affirme that the Kinge in honor canne doe no lesse then to advowe his service, and that the contrarie would greatlie discourage his other fathefull subiects to hazard their lives vppon like occasions occurring.

Then I signified vnto the Kinge the contents of soche lettres as I received by the last messenger from my Lord of Leicester and M^r Walsingham, declaringe vnto him that his Ambassador resident in England had moved the Earle of Leicester to perswade your Ma^{ty} to send some expresse messenger to the King of Navarr, and aswell by the said messenger as by your Highnes' lettres to advise him to accept soche reasonable and honorable condicons of peace as should be offered vnto him by his Kinge and soueraigne, desiringe further that yt might please your Highnes to write your lettres to his Ma^{ty}, and by the same to perswade him to deale graciouslie with his subiects, and to be content to graunt them soche reasonable and honorable condicions as might be to his honor and quiete of his Realme. I tould him that the Earle of Leicester had moved your

Ma^{ty} herein, and found you verie willinge to doe anie good office that might be agreable to the good amytie betwene your Highnes and him, onlie you willed the said Earle of Leicester to send to the Ambassador for his pasport, and declaracion that your sendinge to the King of Navarr was a thinge acceptable of the King his master, doubtinge otherwise how he would take yt, that you should send to anie which were his enymies. I said his Ambassador had signified to the Earle of Leicester by his lettres, that he thought his master would not like well your Ma^{ty} should send anie messenger to the Kinge of Navarr ; but if you would write vnto him, and would also write vnto the Kinge his master, to pray him to authorise mee to convey the lettres to the said King of Navarr, he thought yt would be well taken. I concluded that, as your Ma^{ty} was right willinge to accomlishe the request of his Ambassador, whoe had proponed the same as a thinge gratfull to his master, so vppon his refusall you had forborne yt, prayinge him to thinke that your Highnes remayned alwayes readie to be employed by him in any thinge reasonable and honorable for you and gratefull and acceptable vnto him. I said I was not ignorant that the Peace was alreadie made, and that now there was no neede of the mediation of frendes, and yet I thought yt agreeable with my dutie to advertize hym of your Ma^{ty}'s frindlie dysposition towards him, which I doubted not would be to his great contentacion and comforte. The Kinge answered that, althoughe he doubted nothinge of your Maiesty's readie good will to doe him all the offices of a good Sister, yet he was gladd to be confirmed in this opinion by your good offer made vnto his Ambassador ; havinge now concluded this Peace so as there was no cause to crave your assistance, whereof he will assure him selfe where the same may stande him in anie steede, and wilbe no lesse readie to make like demonstration of his good affection towards you when you shall haue occasion to ymploy hym.

Nyppeuille (whoe, as I heare, escaped not longe sythence out of pryson in England,) hath ben of late in this Court, where he hathe

made great exclamation of the wronges he hathe sustayned in England, and hathe sworne manie othes that he wilbe revenged. He is departed from hence withe full resolucion (as I am informed) to goe to the seas, and some say with licence from the Kinge, some say without licence, but with a cruell revenginge mynd againste the subiects of England. Although he I had no warrant from your Ma^{ty} to deale with the Kinge herein, yet consyderinge that this felow departed so latelie from hence as yt myght be easie for the Kinge to restrayne him yf he were so mynded, I thought good to make his Ma^{ty} acquainted with soche matter as I had learned, aswell of his threatninge speaches vsed here, as of his outragious dealing vppon the seas in tyme past; and there withall prayed him to remember the late earnest complaynt which I had made vnto him by commaundement from your Ma^{ty} touchinge youre marchants, which were robbed, spoyled, and kylled daylie by his subiects on the seas. I told him there was no good way to nourishe good amytie betwene theise two Crowns then to ponishe with seueritie all pirates and robbers on the seas, pestilent enymyes to all comone welthes. I concluded that yf new daungerouse fellowes were permytted to goe to the seas, new occasions of complaints might arise that might disturbe the happie peace, which is now and hathe contynewed so longe tyme betwene theise two Realmes, whereof non would be more sorie then I. The Kinge answered that he had spoken but once with Nyppeuille; that he had tould him manie thinges (but he would not tell me what theise thinges were); that he could not tell me yf he were departed from the Courte; that he could not forbyd his subiects to goe to the seas; that yf they did anie wronge to his frinds, and speciallie to those of England, he would not fayle to ponish them; and that his subiects did also complaine of wronges donne vnto them by the Englishe. I prayed him not to sufer him selfe to be abused by synister informacions; I told him that the wronges which your Ma^{ty}'s subiects had receaved were not toller-able; that there was no hope of amendement; that there was almost

no haven in his realme which had not sett out some pirates to the seas of late; that as his Ma^{tie} might not let his subiects to goe to the seas, so yt was most reasonable and honorable for him to take order with his seuerall Cap^{tens} in his seuerall havens to restrayn all pirates and robbers; that the good and honest merchant was easilie discerned from the theife; that their preparacions did bewray their intents; that this Nippeuille had no just occasion to goe to the seas, vnleast it were for his Maiesty's service; that he was a blouddy felowe; and that he was so latelie departed from the Court, that he might yet be stayed yf yt pleased his Ma^{tie}. I cannot (sayethe the King) stay my subiects from goinge into the seas. I doe not knowe that Nippeuille is gon from my Court, but if he doe anie wronge he shalbe ponished. I told him that one soche badd felowe might disturbe the good intelligence betwene theise two Crownes; that I could doe no lesse with my dewtie to your Ma^{tie}, and with the respect which I ought to haue to the conservacion of good amitie betwen you and him, then to tell him my knowledge of this man, and prayed him to consyder of yt. This is all I could get of him touchinge Nippeuille; and this is the true some, as I can remember, of all that passed betwen the Kinge and me at this tyme.

I had desired awdience of Queen Mother, whoe hathe kept her chamber seaven or eight dayes, and is yet diseased, so as I could haue no accesse vnto her.

Then I was conveyghed to Monsieur's lodginge, where I declared vnto him that his interest in this late concluded Peace was so great that I thought I should comytt a great fault, yf I should not doe the same office of congratulacion vnto him, which I had don already vnto the Kinge his brother. I told him that this congratulacion had two principall respects, the one of honor, the other of profitt; that, consyderinge the place and rancke which he holdethe in this realme, he could not but participat withe his brother in the one and the other: that I could not forgett that longe sythence yt had pleased him to tell me that his comynge then to the Court was to no other end then

to procure a good peace between the Kinge and his subiects, which he had now performed, and did appeare that all his meane doings, even his action of hostilitie, tended to no other end; that this peace had gotten him great honour and reputacion; that one onlie point remained to make the full heape of his felicitie, which was, as he had ben a principall meane to conclude this peace, so to doe his best indeuore to the dew observacion of the same; that yt was comendable in all Princes to be valient yn warre and wise in counsell; but the vertue the most notable in great personages was integritie, fydelitie, and rowndnes in their actions, and to observe faithefully theire wordes and promises; that the world did looke to fynd yt at his handes, and then would thinke [him] worthie of all degrees of honor and felicitie. He answered that he had desired nothinge more then peace between the Kinge and his subiects; that he employed all his meanes to procure yt; that he found the Kinge his brother likewise affected; that the late warre had no other end then to reduce the subiects of this realme to theire due obedience; that there was no doubt of the due observacion of this peace; that the Kinge did intend yt; and that, for his part, he would further yt to the best of his power.

Then I told him yt was not ynoughe to make peace at home, vnlesse they did also keepe peace abroad; that this late accident betwene the yonge Lansacq and your Maiesty's subiects seemed to tend to the disturbance of the good amitie betwene those two Realmes; that the onlie remedie in theise cases was to be found in the begyninges, and that his good counsell might serve to great purpose to stay the malice of soche as desired nothinge more then troubles and divisions, vppon hope to make themselues great by other men's harmes. He answered that he doubted not but that I had proponed this matter to the King his brother; that I had received his reasonable answeare; that the King desired nothinge more then the contynewance of amytie between him and your Ma^{ty}; that his good word and counsell should not want to further yt; and

that he would be verie sorie that anie iust occasion should be given to the contrarie on either part. I told him I would not trouble him with the perticularities ; I had said ynoughe to the Kinge, and had receaved his honorable answer ; and so I departed from him.

Yt is not to be doubted but that after so manie and longe consultations the Kinge hathe alreadye resolued what he will doe in this matter, and, what so ever he pretentethe, he hathe hearde alreadye all that he will beleve, Brouage beinge so neere at hand as he may have advertizement from thence everie day ; but my simple opinion [is] his delay is to no other [end] then to see how your Maiesty will take yt, and thervppon to frame his actions as may be most for his advantage.

Men talke diuerslie of this Peace, accordinge to their seuerall humors ; and for my part, when I consyder how manie wise men of all nations haue ben deceived in like cases, I forbear to vtter my symple opinion. The same faire wordes, the same promises, the same protestacions, the same reasons and likelihood that are given out now, haue ben vsed in tym past vppon like occasions ; and yet experience hathe shewed, that even at that instant when all these outward pleasant shewes haue ben confirmed with others, there was a full resolution to deceive. A harde example and worthie to be consydered. The same Princes, the same councellors, the same subiects, the same Pope, the same Kinge of Spaine, the same forreine enemies are now which were then. The late resolution of the three Estates, and the circumstances belonginge are not forgotten. Fynallye, the perills of the tyme past, and some meanes and occasions remaineing at this presente doe breede mistrust in the hartes of manie. And yet the other opinion is not without manie stronge and probable reasons. The dispositions of the Kinge, whose desirethe nothinge more then to liue quietlie and pleasantlie ; the perswasions of his mynions, whose fynd by experience that they possesse great libertie, and more to their profit in tyme of peace then in tyme of warre ; some secret envie of the greatnes of the House of Guise,

increasinge daylie by occasion of theise cyvyll troubles; the lettle good and greate expence which hathe folowed of this late warre, want of money, deepe debts, his people poore, and manie other soche like arguments. I thinke the best and surest opinion ys to hope the best, and to provide for the worst. God preserue your most excellent Ma^{ty}, and blesse you in all your attempts! From Poictiers, the &c.

TO MR WALSINGHAM.

Your Honor is so carefull to direct me how to intertaine my good frindes in England, and howe to direct my actions to my best credyt, that I cannot tell howe to thanke you sufficientlie. Yt is ynoughe that I am readie to acknowledge your favoure towardes mee with all honest fydelitie and with all the lytle power that God hathe given me. September
27, 1577.

I haue recomended Jacomo his cause to my Lord of Leicester, and doe not doubt but that your Honor will ioyne with him in the furtherance of the suite. My men are bound to pray for youe for their speedie dispatches, or rather I in their behalfe. Yt may please your Honor that Wilcott may be the first of my men that returnethe vnto mee. George Poulet arrived here the xxvth of this present, at ixth of the clocke at night. And thus I leave to trouble your Honor, &c.

I haue written vnto your Honor before this tyme that I could not thinke well 7358, beinge now advertized by one that hathe good meane to know somewhat in this matter, that his pretence ys e 185, wherein I trust to be better informed very shortelie. I haue received new probable reasons to confirme my former advertizments touchinge Moulins, whoe no doubt departed from hence into Scotland for the Frenche Kinges service. I vrged the Deputies at their first beinge here all that I coude to haue the promise of her Ma^{ty} and other Princes Protestants for their assurance, and they did desire yt; but yt could not be hadd. It was the first thinge I moved vnto them.

I cannot sende you the trew articles of the Peace at this tyme, but I heare that the matter for the money *in deposito* ys remembred.

The Duke of Guise is said to entertaine his forces ; yea, to augment them ; and that he hathe intelligence with Don John for some matter of great ymportance, but into what contrey yt reachethe I cannot yet learn.

TO MY LORD OF LEICESTER.

My verie good Lord, I had awdience but yesterday of the King at great lengthe, whereof I haue written vnto her Ma^{tie}, and doe not doubte but that she did ymparte the same vnto your Lordship. Touchinge the Peace, the King promisethe verie largelie, but touchinge the Englishe shipps taken by the yonge Lansacq, he delayethe his resolucion vntill he shalbe better informed of the maner of this facte. Yt ys now tyme that England be as jalous of the Frenche, as the Frenche of late haue ben jalous of England ; and shalbe meet to haue a verie good eye to Scotland, where our harme will begynne, yf I be not deceived. This bearer cann informe your Lordship of La Roche and of the state of the cost of Bretagne. Yt may please your Lordship to haue Jacomo in remembrance for the pension which was promised vnto him. His seaven yeares seruice hathe deserued this alreadie, and his seruice to come may deserue a better tourne. And thus, &c.

TO MY LORD TREASURER.

My verie good Lord, Yt were needles to write to your Lordship the perticularities of my negotiation yesterday with the King, whereof I haue aduertised her Ma^{tie} at good lengthe, and doe not doubt but that the same shalbe ymparted to your Lordship. Faire wordes are good cheape in this contrey, and I haue received my part

of them. The Kinge saithe that this Peace is his peace, and [he] will obserue [it] inviolablie. He semythe no lesse resolute in his affection to nowrishe good amytie betwen her Ma^{tie} and him; and yet, in this matter of the yonge Lansacq, he dealethe somewhat couldie, pretendinge that he is not yet duellie advertized of the true circumstances of the facte; I feare his answer doethe not depend so moche [of] the equitie of the cause, as of her Ma^{tie}'s good or ill takinge of Lansacq's doinges.

I haue not yet receiued the true articles of the Peace: but this is the substance, for their sewertie, viij townes, whereof three [are] in Guien, ij in Languedocq, one in Province, and two in Dawlphin, besides S^t Jean d'Angelie, which remayneth in the custodie of the Prince of Condé vntill he be in full possession of his gouernment in Picardie. One towne or bourge in everie bayllywick for the exercise of Religion, savinge that in Pycardie the same is graunted in two bayllywickes onelie; lybertie is given to levie vi^c thousand francks amonge themselues to pay their debtes; these townes to remaine in the handes of the Protestants duringe vj yeares, and to be guarded with twoe thousande souldiers at the Kinges charges. The Ristres shalbe satisfied; and other thinges touchinge matters of justice.

I know no other matter worthie of your Lordship at this presente. And so do comytt you to the tuicion of Almightye, whoe alwayes preserue your good Lordship. From Poictiers, &c.

TO M^R WALSINGHAM.

Yt may please your Honor to be advertized that, havinge accesse to Queen Mother the xxvijth of the last, I said yt was a thinge notoriouslie knowne to all men that shee had governed this realme now manie yeares; that, at this present, the King, her sonne, did repose him selfe vppon her in his weightiest and most ymportunat

October 6,
1577.

affayres; that, therefore, all men with one voyce did give vnto her the honor and prayse of the conclusion of this Peace; that, as by her wisdom and dexteritie this peas had taken his good effect, so the worlde did beleewe that shee would not faile to see the same obserued inviolablie; that shee had not ben forced or constrayned to make this peace; that shee had given this peace (yf I might so saye) to the subiects of this realme, to refreshe them after theire infynite miseries and calamities; that this peace was acceptable to God, honorable to her and to the Kinge her sonne, profitable to her subiectes; and that there wanted no other thinge then the due observation of the same, to restore this realme to his antient dignitie; that this was a worke worthie of her Ma^{ty}, and soche as no other could effectuat but shee alone; that she had gotten great honor and reputacion by the makinge of this peace; that the same would be moche increased yf shee did intertaine yt; that shee should find ynoughe which would counsell the contrarie, whose advise tendide to no other end then to make them selues great by the spoyle and ruyne of others; that God was the best councilor in theise like matters, whoe recomended vnto vs aboue all thinges roundnes, symplicitie and integritie in all our actions, and did hate all treasons and treacheries. I prayed that this peace might longe contynewe, and that her honor might increase by due obseruacion of the same; and fynally assured her that the Queene my soueraigne did participat with her in all her prosperities. The Queen answered that she found the Kinge verie well affected to this peace; that of her part she did further yt to the best of her power; that she thought her selfe verie happie to haue performed yt; that the Kinge desired nothinge more then the preservacion of his subiects; that his late warres tended to no other end then to procure this peace; that this peace was of the Kinge's owne makinge, that he will not fayle to obserue yt; that he would make yt evident to all the worlde how dearelie hee accompted of his word and promise, that, as the Queene my soueraigne had peace at home, so she doubted not but that her

Highnes would be gladd to see her neighbours in peace abroad, and that shee would be alwayes readie to reioyse with her felicityes. I replied that I desired nothinge more then the quietnes and tranquillitie of this realme, and therefore would not spare to say vnto her my symple opinion of the meanes most meete and effectuall to that purpose; whereof the first to sownde with good iudgement the humors and dispositions of soche as desired or conseyled the violacion of this peace, whose counsells and advises would easyly bewraye their inward corruptions, tendinge to no other end then to satisfie the insatiable ambition of their aspiring myndes by the ruyne of others. The second, to ponishe with all rigoure and extremitie the first infractor of this Edict, to serue for examples to all others to refrayne from like attempts. The Kinge (sayethe shee,) will not receive the counsell of soche as shall perswade to his dishonor, and will not faile to mynister justice without mercie to all soche of bothe religions, as will refuse to liue within the compasse of his ordonnances.

But now, Madam, (quod I), as you haue made peace at home, so doe your indeuoure to conserue peace with your neighbours abroad. I told her she could not be ignorant of the late accident happened between the yonge Lansacq and the Englishe shippes; that there was a great fault comytted by the mynisters of the one or the other parte; that I beleued verilie that neither the Queen my mistres or the Kinge her sonne had anie parte or portion in this fault; that the facte was not to be excused, in my opinion; that I had ben credyibly advertised of the plaine truthe of all theise doinges; that vppon light occasion, or non at all, Her Majesty's subiects had been ymprysoned, intreated as gally slaues, rannsonede, and they and their shippes carried away as lawfullye taken in a lawfull victorie; that these offices were vnworthie of the good intelligence which hathe of longe contynued betwene theise two Realmes; that this was not the way to nowrishe good amytie betwene the Queen my mistres and her sonne; that for my parte, I was hartelie sorie for yt, and therefore

prayed her to haue due consyderation of theise thinges, least havinge newlie escaped one perillous daunger, they fall into an other that is more dangerous. The Queen answered that the King was not yet dewlie informed of the circumstances of this facte; that he should heare more verie shortelie; that shee knewe verie well there was no fault in her Ma^{tie}; that also there was no faulte in the Kinge her sonne; that he desired nothinge more then to keepe the good amytie with her Highnes; that the Kinge was credyblie advertized that theise shippes had spoyled his subiects on the seas; that thinges must be reformed; and that she would not fayle to ymploye her power and credytt to the maintenance of good amytie betwene theise two Crownes.

I said I could not tell what shee had heard, and prayed her to reserue one eare for her Ma^{tie}. I told her I did not doubte but that reports were brought to the Court daylie to the advantaige of the yonge Lansacq, whose might cause to be said for him selfe what pleased him without controulement; that I was not ignorant of the truthe of this matter; that yt was easie to iudge where yt wringed; that I had not forgotten that her Ma^{tie} did once say vnto mee that I found theise two Realmes at my comynge hither in good and perfect amytie, and that yf anie breache did arise hereafter, she would ympute yt vnto me; that now I might be bold to say that the occasions came from their syde, and therefore prayed her ones againe to consyder well of yt. The Queen promised that there should be no fault in the Kinge her sonne, or her.

Then I addressed my self vnto the Frenche Queen, and said vnto her, that, consyderinge the nere copiuunction between her and the King her husbände, I could not be ignorant that her interest in this Peace was verie great, and therefore would not fayle to reioyse with her for this singuler blessinge. I told her that she had the reputacion amonge all men to be of a meeke and mylde dispoition, to be a louer of peace, and to desire quietnes at home and abroad; that the world did give vnto her the honor to haue ben one of the principall pro-

curers of this peace, and did assure them selves of her ready good will to the observacion of the same. I prayed her to beleue that the Queene my mistres did participat with her in all her prosperities, as one that wished vnto her all honor and dignitie. The Queen assured me that no other was more gladd of this peace then shee; that the Kinge had longe desired yt; that [he] intended nothinge more then to obserue yt; that shee was likewise affected; that the Queene my mistres had tasted the fruits of peace theise manie years; that she doubted not but that shee would be gladd to see this realme deliuered from theise miserable troubles; that shee wished vnto her Highnes the full heape of all felicitie, and would be readie to reioyce with her vppon everie good occasion occurringe.

I send vnto your Honor this copie inclosed of a byll deliuered vnto me by Gondie ymediatlye after my awdience, sayinge that Mns' Lansacq desired me to peruse yt, and then to send yt againe vnto him.

I sent the said Bill the next morninge to Mons' La Mothe Fenelon by my Secretarie with this message, that, consyderinge he had negotiated with me by comaundment from the King touchinge the late accident betwene the yonge Lansacq and the Englishe shippes, havinge received the day next before a byll from the father of the said Lansacq touchinge those causes, I thought good to aduertise hym of my opinion touchinge the said byll, which I found to be insufficient, ymperfect, and fryvolous in all the points of the same, and was gladd to see that the doinges of the yong Lansacq had no better foundation; and so prayed him to say from me, aswell to the King as to the yonge Lansacq. La Mothe tooke the byll, with a promise to doe as I desired; and, indeed, the takinge and retayninge of the trompet by namelesse men; the quarelinge and brawlinge betweene the Englishe maryners; the surmise of two Frenche barks taken by Englishe men; the goodes founde abourde theise Englishe shippes, which they pretend to belonge to marchants of Mercelles, and perchance were brought of those of Rochell; and

soche other like allegations, cannot suffice to condemne this whole fleet, and so many innocents belonging to the same.

The Deputies of the Kinge of Navarre haue foreborne to come vnto me, vntyll they had dispatced all their buisnes with the King. The articles sent here with all are made so deintie as I could not gett them by any means of any of the Deputyes.

The Deputyes haue good hope of the contynewance of this peace, and of the Kinges sinceritie in this behalfe; and yet some others seeme to feare least, directlie or indirectlie, some thinge may be done to the disturbance thereof by colour of the late ligues and associacions made within this realme, the Catholiques pretendinge that their landes, goodes, faithe, and consciences are alreadie engaged by expresse authoritie from the Kinge, and therefore canne not admitt the execution of this Edicte without the indignacion and censure of the Apostolicq Church. Yt ys feared least the Howse of Guise will aduance this oposition, which of yt selfe canne not be dangerous, yf yt be not ioyned without secrett intelligence.

Mons^r Languillier, Clansone, and thother Deputyes of the Kinge of Navarre and Prince of Condé haue ben especialie required to signifie vnto mee the great and singuler affection of the said King and Prince towards her Ma^{ty}, that they wilbe alwayes readie to ymploy their lyvinges and lifes at her Highnes comandement, and that they will dispatche a gentleman shortlie into England to acknowledge their thankfullnes.

Mons^r departed from hence in post towards Paris the first of this present, and is said to goe from thence to La Fere, in Pycardie, to see his sister the Queene of Navarre. The companies of footemen which were about this towne are some departed alreadie, and the rest readie to marche towards Pycardie. Mons^r [] latelie come to this Court, and [who] hathe ben agent for the King in Flaunders, ys alwayes with Mons^r. I leave theise thinges to your better consyderacion. The gouvernement of Languedocq shalbe devided betweene

the Mareschal Bellegarde and Joyeuse. Danvill shall haue his marquisat, which he hathe bought full dearelie, God knowethe.

The popular state of Genes hathe growne jalous of some gallyes arrived there of late out of Naples, and of other forces which the King of Spaine intertaynethe in those parts. Great preparations is made for theire defence, and the Duke of Toskane is a partison in this matter against the Kinge of Spayne.

I sent my secretarie three or foure days past to Mons^r Pynart to pray him to advertise me yf the Kinge had taken anie good resolution touchinge the Englishe shippes, and received answer from him that the Kinge had as yet heard nothinge from Brouage.

The fourthe of this present in the eveninge, I was informed by one that came directly from Brouage, that the messenger sent thether by the King to examyne the circomstances of this fact, was returned hyther at that instant, and had brought with hime a longe examynacion of the same; wherevpon I sent my Secretarie againe to Pynart the next morninge to tell him that, beinge advertised of the arrivall of this messenger from Brouage, I trusted now to receive some good newes from him. He answered that he had heard nothinge, and that he knew nothinge; and this answer was made in soche short termes, that yt appeared verie well he was sorie to vnderstand that I had ben informed of the arrivall of this messenger; and yet vpon better advise he called my secretarie againe, and willed him to tell me that I should heare from him verie shortlie. This informacion was brought vnto the Kinge, the third of this presente in the eveninge, and the Kinge departed not from hence vntill the vth day after noone; so that the King had good leisure duringe this tyme to informe hymselfe of this matter, and to haue had conference with me either by hymselfe or by his mynisters yf yt had so pleased him. But yt appeareth the playnelie that he intendethe nothing lesse; and, therefore, after his departure out of this towne, sent a gentleman vnto me with theise examynacions enclosed, comaundeinge him to signifie vnto mee, that of all the shippes

taken by yonge Lansacq, onlie xiiij or xvj (the messengers did not well remember the nomber) were stayed ; that besides the traffick with the King's rebells and enymyes, theise said shippes had vsed sondrie actions of hostilitie ; that the said Lansacq reputed them as lawfully taken ; that the Kinge could not bee satisfied with the depositions of those of his nation which had anye interest in this cause ; that therefore he had caused sondrie Englishe men to be examyned ; that he would not support the yonge Lausacq in any of his doinges, that shalbe founde contrarye to the good amytie betweene him and her Ma^{tie} ; and fynally that I might haue accesse to the Chancelore and others of his Counsell for further conference herein at my convenient leasure. I answered that I would haue been gladd to haue ben informed thereof, before the departure of the King ; that perchaunce some shorte conference would haue appeased this trouble ; that tracte of tyme ys daungerous in theise like cases ; that the arrest of xvj shippes so longe tyme canne not but breede great damage ; that this delay was accompanied with manie daungers ; that yt had ben good to haue passed over this matter with lesse curiositie ; that a curious and straight examynacion thereof may bee more perilous then profitable ; that I coulde not perceiue, by the depositions, that theise English shippes had vsed anye one action of hostilitie ; the companie or other doinges of the shippe of Rochell touched them nothinge. And, therefore, as one that desired nothinge more then the contynewance of good amytie between theise two Crownes, I wished that theise great iniuries should not be proffered vppon so slender occasions, and that theise shippes were deliuered without anye further proces. This messenger told me that the yonge Lansacq desired no other iudge in this matter but mee, and that the old Lansacq had willed him to signifie vnto mee that his sonne shalbe ordered by me. The said messenger protestethe that yf the old Lansacq will folowe his advise he shoulde not fayle to comaunde his sonne to discharge theise shippes without delaye. This gentleman is (no doubte) wearie of the matter, and beinge

appointed to make his ymmediat repaire to the Court, will make soche reporte (yf I be not deceived) as theise shippes will not be longe detayned, vnlesse these delayes be vsed (a matter verie likelie in my opinion) because they will see in what parte her Ma^{tie} will take theise doinges.

The King is gone to Champignye, a house belonging to the Duke of Montpencier, and from thence comethe to Towers, where I shalbe assured to finde him; trustinge in this meane tyme to heare from your Honor; and in deede would be sorie to deale with the Kinge here in, vntill I weare further aduertised of her Maiesty's pleasure. The Kinge sendethe me worde, as your Honor hathe hearde, that I shall conferre herein with the Chaunceloire; and the truthe is that the Chauncelor was alreadie departed the same morninge before the King to the house of his sonne-in-lawe dwellinge besid Towers, and dothe not retorne againe to the Courte vntill the cominge of the King to Towres, which prouethe plainelie that all theise delayes haue ben vsed of deliberat purpose.

I haue ben earnestlie desired by Mons^r L'Anguillier to remember him vnto her Ma^{tie}, and to assure [her] aswell of his thankefullnes for the singuler benefitts which he confessesthe to haue received of her Highnes, as also of his readines to doe her all the service that may lye in his lyttle power. Also he pretendethe to desire nothinge more then to be assured of your good frindshippe, which hathe ben shaken as he saithe by synister meanes. This man was no straunger vnto mee, althoughe I had neuer sene him, so as I knewe the better howe to vse him. I haue had great conference with Clansone, whom I finde zealous, honest, and wise.

This bearer hathe stayed here one whole day for want of horses, Mons^r beinge ryden to Paris in post with xxx horses; and manie of the nobilitie do tarie for horses to followe him, so as I am not yet assured when I shall haue horses. And thus, &c.

Yt is said that L'Aubespine, brother-in-law to Mons^r Pynart, is vppon the point to be dispatched into England to certifie the newes

of the Peace. I heare yt was misliked that the last messengers sent for like purpose was not rewarded.

TO M^R WALSINGHAM.

Ymediatlie after the departure of the Kinge from hence, a gentleman sendethe me this darke message, that their matter went forward better then they could wishe; and that perchaunce Mons^r would come no more to this Court theise twelue monethes; and that Bussy and he coulde not be suffered to goe with him, but they would goe after him; and that they had fowrten complaints against Queen Mother. I vse his owne wordes. This man will say ynoughe as you knowe, and by this token yt may please you to gesse his name. This tale, no doubt, hathe some meanings; I coniecture that the King and Mons^r haue agreed betwen them selves that the absence of Mons^r shall seeme to be against the good will of the Kinge; and that, in this meane tyme, Monsieur shall make some attempt vppon Flaunders. This gentleman would faine haue a pension; and saiethe that M^r Willson did assure him of yt; he promisethe great service. I sought to speake with him my selfe; which I coulde not doe by some occasions, whereof I was hartilie sorie, &c.

TO MY LORD OF LEICESTER.

October 6,
1577.

My verie good Lord, The King is departed this daye towards Paris; and the Deputyes sent from the King of Navarre are also returnede towards him, with soche satisfaction as maye appeare vnto your Lordship by some notes sent herewithall to M^r Walsingham, which came not to my handes vntill this last eueninge, and are of soche lengethe as tyme did not serue me to make more then one copie, beinge required to restore the originall. Manie haue great hope of the dewe observacion of this Edicte, and others are in no

lesse feare of the late lygues and associations made within this realme, confirmed by oathe and aauthorised by the King. Yt is said that their goodes, landes, faithe, and consciences are alreadie engaged, and is thought that the House of Guise will not hinder this opposition. Manie companies of footemen are yet intertayned, and marche daylie towards Pycardie; your Lordship may be assured that the French souldier will not be idle, and yn deede yt is of necessitie that he must be employed. And thus, &c.

TO MY LORD TREASURER.

My verie good Lord, I knowe no other newe matter worthie of your Lordship then soche as ys contained in the articles sent by this bearer to M^r Walsingham, which came not to my handes vntill this last eveninge, and was constrayned to restore them in the morninge, the same beinge so longe and tedious as tyme did not serue me to make more then one copie. The Kinge goethe to Paris by easye journeis, and Mons^r is gone thether in post, intendinge (as yt is said) to goe from thence to La Fere in Picardie to see his sister the Queen of Navarre. Yt is not to be doubted but that this viage hathe a further meaninge, which I hope to discouuer when the Court shalbe settled at Paris.

The messengers sent to Brouage by the King for the examynacion of the late accident betwene the yonge Lansacq and the Englishe shippes retournede to the Court the thirde of this presente, and [I] did now truste that some good resolution woulde haue folowed here before the Kinge's departure from hence, to which purpose I sent my Secretarie to Mons^r Pynart for his better remembrance; but the King was departed before I coulde receive answeere herein, which tended to no other ende, in my symple opinion, then to delay theire fynall resolucion vntyll they may vnderstand how her Ma^{ty} will like of the matter. The circomstances of theire doinges doe easylie

bewray theire inwarde meaninges, and especially vnto mee that am an eye wittnesse of theire connynge devises, which I cannot expresse soe effectuallie by writinge as were convenient, and yett I haue written herein at good lengthe to Mast^r Walsingham. And &c.

TO MY LORD OF SUSSEX.

My verie good Lord, This quiet tyme yeldethe no matter worthie of advertisement, onleast I would write of the diversitie of opinions touchinge this Peace; which is as diuerse as men composed of sondrie humors are diuerslie affected. Some hope; some are secure; some feare to moche; some feare to lITTLE. God onlie knowethe thende of theise thinges, as he onlie knowethe the hart of man. Our resolution for foreyne matters will not be certainelie knowne vntill the King haue ben settled sometyme at Paris, where he intendethe to be the xxiiijth of this presente or thereabouts. Mons^r is gon towards Paris in post, and is said that hee goethe from thence to La Fere in Pycardie to see his sister the Queen of Navarr. Yt is not to be doubted but that this voyage hathe a further meaning, and so manie companies of footemen haue not theire rendezvous in Pycardie for nothings. The Deputies of the King of Navarre are returned from hence with good satisfaction, in which behalfe Mr Walsingham cann informe your Lordship of some particularities. I haue ben advertised from the King, that onlie xvj of the Englishe shippes taken by the yonge Lansacq are detained, and am moche deceived yf theise also will not be deliuered verie shortlie, as in deede theire doinges haue no colore of excuse, in my symple opinion. And thus, &c.

TO MY LORD OF WARWICKE.

October 6,
1577.

My verie good Lord, I know no newe matter worthie of aduertisement, all thinges here restinge vpon good termes of peace and quietnes. The Deputes of the King of Navarre are returned

towards him with good satisfaction. The King is departed from hence this day towards Paris, intendinge to spend two or three daies at Champigny with the Duke of Montpensier. Mons^r is gone towards Paris in post, and is sayed that he goethe from thence to La Fere in Pycardie to see his sister the Queen of Navarre. Great preparacions are made in the frontyers ; but to what ende I doe not certainelie knowe. Yt is of necessitie that the Frenche soudiour must be ymployed. Great talke of some thinge to be done in Flaunders. Theise thinges will breake out to some certainetie, when the King shalbe settled in Paris.

Sixten of the Englishe shippes taken by the yonge Lansacq are yet detayned, and manie meanes are sought to iustifie this facte, which, surelie, in my symple opinion, hathe no collour of excuse, and is generally misliked in this courte and contrey, as knowethe the Allmightie, whoe alwayes preserue youre good Lordship, &c.

TO MY LORD ADMIRALL.

My verie good Lord, I write rather to ackknowledge my dutifull good will then for anie matter I know worthie of advertisment, all thinges here restinge in good and quiet peace (thankes be to God), and great hope is conceived of the contynewance thereof, althoughe yt is not to be doubted but that the burnt childe dreadethe the fyre, and that manie of good iudgement cannot be satisfied herein, vntill tyme shall discouere the good or badd meaninge of the principall awthors of this Peace. The Deputies of the King of Navarre are returned from hence well satisfied ; and pretend to be of the number of those which beleeeue that the worde and promise of a Prince is to be receaved as a lawe and his othe as an oracle. The success of theise thinges is in the handes of the Almightye, whoe knowethe what is most expedient for his afflicted Church. The King goethe towards Paris by easie journeyes, and Mons^r is gon thether in post,

and yt is thought that he goethe from thence to La Fere in Pycardie to see his sister the Queen of Navarre. Some thinke that this voyage hathe a further meaninge. I doubte not but that your Lordship hathe ben informed of the Englishe shippes taken by the yonge Lansacq, whereof onlie sixteen are detayned, and manie shiftes are vsed to give some collour of equitie to this rashe facte, which, in my simple opinion, cannot be excused. The King hathe caused this matter to be examyned, the depositions of certaine English men beinge sent by this bearer to M^r Walsingham, which are the principall groundes of the yonge Lansacq's institution. I desire moche to vnderstand her Majesty's pleasure in this behalfe. And thus, &c.

TO M^R TREASURER.

Yt may please your Honor to accept my good will in steede of longer lettres, the world here beinge so quiet as yt yeldeth no newe matter worthie of advertisements. The Deputes of the King of Navarre are retorned with good satisfaction, and with great hope of a longe and happie peace. The King is departed towards Paris, and Mons^r is gon thether in post, and is sayed that he goethe from thence to La Fere in Pycardie to see his sister the Queen of Nauarre. Manie companies of souldiours are yet intertaind, and [it] is of necessitie that they must be ymployed. Theise thinges will breake out to some certaintie when the King shalbe settled in Paris, whereof your Honor shall heare from me vppon the first good occasion occuringe. And thus, &c.

TO M^R WALSINGHAM.

October 19,
1577.

Yt may please your Honor to be aduertised that, comynge to Towrs the ixth of this present, and the Kinge arrived there also the same day from Champignie, a house belonginge to the Duke of

Montpensure, I was aduertised from the old Lansacq, that although his sonne had taken and stayed the Englishe shippes vppon good and reasonable consyderacions, yet he would not fayle to shewe all dutifull obedience to the Kinge his master, at whose comandment he had deliuerd the said shippes, affirmeinge that his sonne was non of the busy bodyes, and woulde submytt himselfe for his doinges herein to my judgement. He said that indeede some of the Englishe marchants, not marchants (saiethe he) but servants to marchants, are yet stayed for some insolencies comytted by them, and [it] is intended that they also shalbe deliuered. I did alwayes thinke that this goodlie triumphe woulde end withe repentance, and yet I can hardlie beleue that this restitution is made without great losse to the marchants, from whome I haue hearde nothinge sythence theire first apprehension, sauinge by the messenger whom I sent with my servant Wolcot into England, which argueth the great negligence in the marchants, or harde and strait dealinge in the yonge Lansacq.

I was aduertized from the King, by Gondy, when I was yet at Poictiers, that I might repaire to Paris at my convenient leasure; and that the King woulde stay in no place more then one night vntill his comynge to Dolinville; and vppon this message, the other ambassadors departed from Poictiers before the King, for theire better comoditie in this longe journey. Because I trusted to here shortelie from her Ma^{tie} of her pleasure toucheinge theise shippes, I remained at Poictiers after the King's departure; and then, takinge my journey towardes Towrs to meet with the King at his comynge thether from Champignie, I resolved to folow the Court as neere as I could, vntill I hearde out of England; but, beinge aduertized of the discharge of theise Englishe shippes, I left the King at Amboyse, trustinge that he woulde haue performed his appointed journeye, which hath ben altered by occasion of the Frenche Queen's sicknes, as ys affirmed; so as the King ys yet at Amboyse.

I sende vnto youre Honor, inclosed herein, the copie of a lettre

which I haue receaved from Geneva; and, althoughe the same, thorough negligence of the writer, were not dated, yet yt may appeare by that he referreth himselfe to other lettres of the xiiijth of the last, that theise Lettres are newlie written. I am promised to heare out of those partes ones [every] xv dayes. I doe also sende vnto your Honor herewithall a lettre which I receaved of late from Strasbourge.

Arrivinge heare this last eveninge, I founde Peter Browne readie to departe, whom I thought good to accompanie with theise fewe lynes, which I doe not sende vnto your Honor as a paquet for her Ma^{tie}, but as a lettre myssive, and so doe referre the messenger to your better consyderacion. Your Honor shall heare from me againe verie shortelie, and in the meane tyme I trust to learne somewhat worthie of aduertisement.

Monsieur ys yet at La Fere, in Picardie, accompanied with La Mote Fenelon; and no doubt some great enterprise is in hand for the Low Contries; and some thinke that Mons^r. feedethe bothe parties with faire wordes, forbearinge his resolution vntill he may be assured to strike with advantage. La Mote hathe had longe and secret conferences with the Ambassador of Scotland, before his comynge from the Courte, and now againe here of late; which makethe me to thinke that the Scottishe and Low Contrey matters passe vnder one consultacion. I pray God theise felows doe not conspire the ruyne of the Prince of Orenge, and consequently of all soche as make profession of the ghospell! Post horses have ben laide for the King three sondrie tymes, and all disapointed; and now men begine to doubt when he comethe. And thus I comitt your Honor, &c. Poictiers, the xixth of Octobre.

TO MR WALLSINGHAM.

October 30,
1577.

Right Honoreable, Yt is now so longe sythence I hearde from your Honor, that I begine to doubt least some mischance hathe happened vnto your messenger; and, therefore, haveinge forborne to write

theise fewe dayes past vppon hope to heare from you, which I desired moche for my satisfaction in many thinges, I have now thought good to vse no longer delaye; and the rather because I vnderstand that Peter Browne, dispatched from hence the xixth of this presente, remainethe yet at Deepe, by occasion of contrarie wyndes, the copie of my lettres sent by him beinge inclosed herein. Yt may appeare by this lettre inclosed that the Frenche are troubled with the arrest of theire shippes in England; the messenger pretendinge to be sent vnto me of purpose; and, havinge lettres to the King from Mons^r. Sigongues, althoughe the Kinge were then here, he departed the same day to Dolynville. He would perswade me, the next morninge, that he durst not deliuer his lettres to anye other then to Mons^r. Pynart, and therefore woulde repaire vnto him at Dolinuille; onleaste I woulde certifie her Ma^{ty}, by my lettres to bee sent vnto hym to Mons^r Cigongues, that the Englishe shippes stayed by the yonge Lansacq were deliuered. I tolde him that, yf it pleased the King to comaunde mee to assure her Ma^{ty} of the release of her shippes, I woulde not faile to performe his comaundement; and haveinge ben privatlie advertized thereof from the old Lansacq, I had alreadie signified the same to my lords of her Maiesty's counsell; and with this answere the fellowe departed from mee. Because I heare nothinge from the Kinge herein, I doubt least there be some further meaninge, onleaste he be satisfied with my affirmacion to the messenger, to have written alreadie so moche as I knewe herein. Theise lettres were deliuered vnto me from Mons^r Cigongues, the xxvth of this present.

Some here, of good iudgement, thinke that this last Peace in Fraunce was not concluded so sodenlie, without some intent to make some great attempte against England, which shoulde have taken his begininge by the ruine of the Prince of Orenge. And surely this notable mischiefe is not vnworthie of the ministerie of the Spaniard and Queene Mother, as lykewise of the Pope and the Queen of Scottes; neither is vnlykely to be practized by them, theire straight

and [in]dissoluble league of friendship havinge at this present no other subiect that may seeme fitt for soche great personages, to shewe the force of their wicked and malicious mynde; and some spare not to say, that when Don John hath assembled his forces a peace shalbe made; and then the whole power of Fraunce, Spayne, Flaunders, and Ittalie shalbe ymployed against Englande and the Prince of Orenge. Yt is easie ynnoughe to see that their hartes are yll affected. God graunte them lyttle powere! which will come to passe if, acknowledgeinge that our owne arme cannot defend vs against so manie mightie and coniured enemyes, we tender the safetie of our good frendes abroad, and accompt of them as of our best assured buckler to defend the blowes prepared against vs. Some say that Monsieur and the Estates cannot agree vppon the conditions, and that he dothe not lyke of their proffers; yea, some thinke that all this treatie betwene them is nothinge but dissimulation; and that this treason was the grounde plott of the late peace in Fraunce. The hatred of the greates personages of this realme against religion is deadly and irreconcilable; and, as nothinge more is desired then the extirpacion of the same, so nothinge wilbe omytted that may serue to that purpose. The Treatie of Bayonn and the Treatie of Namure seeme to haue trayted by lyke practise to lyke trayterouse effects. The sequel of this treatie is moche feared of some here that wishe well to the Estates, and desire nothinge more then that they weare relieued by the Frenche; and, to leaue the arguments which can serue to further and hindre this coniunction, they com to this conclusion, that the demaundes of the Frenche wilbe of sett purpose so excessive, as the Estates may in no wise graunte them with their honor, dewtye, or profit; and yet that this negociacion shalbe contynued, and the Estates shalbe fedd with some vaine hope, vntill they shalbe so farre within the daunger of Don John as they may not possiblye avoyd their vtter ruine. I doe not know what opinione the Estates may haue of Mons^r, but they are moche deceaued yf they doe thinke that he dothe or will doe anie thinge

herein without the direction and commaundement of his brother and mother; and what good may be expected of their councell, when the mother is wholly Spainishe, and the two sonnes wholly at their mother's devocion?

My best frendes are abroad, so as I am forced to roaue at these things as the common opinion may leade me, trustinge to learne some better certaintie verie shortlie. I am not ignorant that the conionction of the Frenche with the Estates is accompanied with manie discomodities, and manifest daungers to our estates and contrey. And yet because that for manie great and probable reasons (in my simple opinione) the vnion of Frenche and Spanishe requireth the most to be feared as a thinge of most certaine and evident perill which may hardlie be avoyded, I should yt the surest way to be most jealous of that side, and yet not to omitt all due carefullnes to foresee the rest the best that wee may.

Monsieur arrived here from La Fere the xxvjth of this present, and departed the next day towards Dolinville; Mons^r Dobigny, Mansart, and Villerval having bent (been?) with him from the Estates, and have presented him with 200,000 florens, and tapisserie to the value of 12,000 crownes. This matter is sayed to have ben longe in deliberation, and was moche ympugned by the Deputyes of Flaunders, but hath now taken his full effect. Dobigny and Mansart are not in this towne. Yt may be that the preparation of the Duke of Guise, the Counte Mansfield, and others of these parts, may moue the Estates, if they be couldly assisted other wayes, to make soche proffers as they wilbe gladd to accept; and then these forces are easilie diuerted to be ymployed at the Kinges pleasure. Yt shall not be amisse that your Honour know that one John Thivon of the Low Contreyes (if I do not mistake some one lettre of his name) hath a yearly pension of 800 florins from Mons^r, and is a great practizer for him in those partes. Don John is sayed to have promise of 6,000 Reistres from the Duke of Bronswicke and other Princes in Germanie; and that 4,000 Spaniardes and 800 horsemen wilbe with him

before the xvth of the next. He hathe alreadie 4,000 Wallons, beside the Almans and Frenche sent by the Duke of Guise; and lookethe [for a] leavie of Italians againste the springe vnder the conducte of the Prince of Parma. Counte Charles, sonne to Counte Mansfield, hathe comission from the Kinge to take vpp xxx Frenche companies for Don John; and Capt^m Stephans, an Italian, levieth x companies in and about this towne with lyke pretence. Also Hamelton, who slew the Regent of Scotland, hathe lyke comission.

Yt is not to be doubted but that there is a verie straight League between Don John and the Duke of Guise, and that the said Duke doethe affect this quarell of the Low Contreyes as his owne.

Mons^r de Vaux, late Gouvernour of Artois, hathe ben here from Don John more than xv dayes, and may not depart vntill he hathe spoken with Queene Mother, whoe wilbe here, as alsoe the King, before Alholautide. Yt is saide here that Ferier, Harball, and one other, Cap^{tns} in the towne of Mynarba, corrupted with rewardes, had promised to yeeld the towne to the Marescall of Rhethe, the conditions agreed, and foure or fiue pledges appointed to be deliuered to the towne of Nysmes, for the performance of the said condicions by the Marescall. But the Protestants of those partes, consyderinge the ymportance of this place, sent secretly to Mynerba lx chosen men, which entered the castle, slew Capitaine Ferier and his companions, to the number of xx or there aboutes, and do yet keepe the towne against the Marescalles.

I am credibly informed that Moulins had 2,000 crownes for his voaige when he was dispatched from hence into Scotland, beinge assured vnto me by one that sayethe that he knowethe whoe paid the money, and when yt was received. Yt is said here that he is now in England in his returne from Scotland, and then his shorte aboade there dothe argue playnely that his going thither was not for a matter of Religion.

Yt is sayed here that there are new troubles in Scotland, which are diuersly reported. And althoughe I do not doubt but that the same

are alreadie or wilbe shortely appeased, yet I may not forgett to putt your Honor in remembrance how easie yt may be for the Duke of Guise, havinge great forces in readines in Champaigne and Picardie, to embarcke three or foure thousande men at Calles to be transported into Scotland.

Yt is reported and beleued here, that the inhabitants of Cycill haue rebelled, and haue slaine 400 Spaniardes or more.

Bomcourte is sent from the Kinge of Navarr to D. Cazimir and the Cantons Protestantes, and yt is said that Pardillon is sent into England.

Blunt and Watkinges, gentlemen of good howses, the first of , the other of Dorsette, and bothe makinge open profession of Poperie, departed from hence the xxijth of this presente, accompanied with one that is seruante to Morgan, whoe came lately out of England, and semethe to be a messenger of creditt amonge them; whereof I thought good to aduertise your Honor, because yt may seeme convenient to examyne this fellowe.

The yonge Norton departed from hence not longe sithence to Don John; and from thence hither, and then to Rouen, where his ffather is now abydinge, and is looked for to returne hither verie shortely; and from hence to repaire againe to Don John. Theise goinges and cominges are not for nothinge.

Some here of good iudgement thinke that this late Peace in Fraunce was not concluded so sodenly without some intent to make some great attempt against England, which should haue taken his begininge by the ruine of the Prince of Orange.

It is sayed that three companies of [the] regiment of Mons^r. Champigne haue ben defeytted, and a companie of lyght horsmen of Monregnaulte; and that Montignie hathe defeated 200 of the souldiours of Don John in the subborbes of Namuur.

The cominge of the Archduke Mathias is moche suspected by manie here, whoe can hardely beleue that anie good canne come to the Estates of the Low Contries by anie of the house of Austria.

Mons^r causethe xx pictures of himselfe to be made in gould, which of lykelyhood are prepared for new frendes. Great somes of money are sayed to be levied in this towne and at Lyones for the seruice of Don John, and the banckers of Millaine dwellinge in Lyones are sewrtyes.

Langdon, servant to the Lord Morley deceased, intendethe to be shortly in England.

I am advertised that the Queen of Navarre is fully resolved not to returne to her husband, and then I referr to your Honor's better consyderacion what is lykely to ensewe.

Postscript.—Beinge vppon the pointe to seale theise lettres, I received those from your Honor of the xxiii^j of this presente, the contents whereof I will not fayle to accomplishe.

TO MR WALSINGHAM.

My old frend tellethe me that the King of Spaigne practisethe by his Ambassador with Monsieur to assist Don John in the subuersion of the Estates of the Low Contries, and to this purpose to aide him with 6000 Frenche harquebushers; that he proferrethe his daughter in mariadge; that he will resigne vnto him all his interest in the Low Contries; that he takethe vppon him to make him King of England; that his meanes are easie; that his intelligences there are great; and because he shall not doubt of the performance of theise promises, that this warre of the Low Contries beinge not lykely to be ended in manie monethes, he will deliuere his daughter into his handes within foure monethes; that Monsieur is advised by his principall Councillors to take another course; that the Spanishe promises are full of treason; that the enioyinge of the Low Contries is certaine and assured, with theise condicions, that no other could lett yt then her Ma^{ty}; that she shoulde haue the Ilandes for her porcion, leauinge the rest to Monsieur; that the Prince of Orange

shoulde be honorably satisfied ; that Monsieur lykethe well of this councell ; that he daret he not to write herein, doubtinge least her Ma^{ty} will make her profite of his lettres to his discredit towards the Estates ; that he wishethe the matter were moved ; that if he knewe her Ma^{ty} would lyke of yt, he would not fayle to write vnto her of purpose ; that this partie looke vppon him to procure some frend of his in the Low Contries to moue

(Two leaves wanting.)

number in England, when they are so plentiful in Fraunce. God graunte better knowledge of his truthe, and better heartes to their Queen and soueraigne then doe appeare in manie of them ! Great forces are prepared, aswell by Don John as by the Duke of Guise, and others here, and (no doubt) will joyne together if the Estates constrained by necessitie doe not giue them selues absolutely to Monsieur. The Baron Dobigni is now here, accompanied with one Villerval ; as likewise Monsieur de Vaux, late gouernour of Artoys, ys here from Don John. There is great bruite here of troubles in Scotland, a matter verie dangerouse as this worlde goethe. The Frinche are at good leasure to nowrishe this fire, and their forces are ready to be transported. I will trouble your Lordship no further, comitting you to the tuition of [the] Almightye, whoe alwayes preserue your good Lordship. From Paris, &c.

Post script.—Beinge vppon the point to seale these lettres, I receaved your Lordship's most curteouse and favoreable lettre of the xxiiijth of this presente, for the which I doe most humbly thanke your Lordship.

TO MY LORD KEEPER.

My verie good Lord, Althoughe I knowe no new matter worthie of advertisement, yet, this bearer M^r Duncumbe repairinge into England, I woulde not fayle to trouble your Lordship with these

fewe lynes, to signifie by the same my dutyfull good will towardes you. The Low Contries are the subiect of the councell's delyberacions and actions of the Frenche at this tyme. Mons' De Vaux beinge here from Don John, and the Baron Dobignie from the Estates, companies of Frenche souldiers are levied dayly, with outward pretence to serue Don John, whoe expectethe great forces out of Italy, and preparethe for a sharpe and deadly warre. I may not omitt to comend vnto your Lordship the honest, diligent, discreet, and faithfull seruice of this bearer; which deserueth the verie good acceptation, thinkinge him worthie of the gouvernement of your Lordship's sonne, or of anie gentleman in England, of what degree so ever. I cannot tell if your Lordship be more indebted vnto him for his carefulnes in your service then I am for his good and quiet behaviour in my house. And thus, &c.

TO MY LORD OF BEDFORD.

My verie good Lord, I thinke my selfe verie vnhapie to be absent at this tyme, when the West partes are so hapie to enioy your presence, beinge not ignorant that the same is no lesse profitable then comfortable to all the true christians and faithfull subiects of Devonshire and other shires adioyninge; I reioyce moche for their sakes, that God hath called you thither, and do trust to be so hapie to finde your Lordship there at my returne. Yt is pitifull to see the number of yonge gentlemen repaired hither for matter of religion; whereof some haue ben here of good contynuaunce, others are come out of the Low Contries to avoyde the troubles there. Some of theise are content to liue quietly, and, leaving their Queene and contrey to the good pleasure of the Almightye, seeke only lyberty of conscience; others are more malicious, and spare not to enter into dangerous and pernicious practizes against her Ma^{ty} and her State. God graunte them better myndes, and deliuere me from soche neighbours! I am

gladd to thinke that Devonshire and Somerset are not spotted with this kinde of fellowes; and, indeed, there are non here out of those shires; and I knowe fewe other shires in England that canne be excepted.

Your Lordship cannot be ignorant of the late Peace concluded betwene the Kinge and his subiects, by occasion whereof all thinges are here in great quietnes, so as I knowe no new thinge worthie of your Lordship. And now all men's eyes are bent towards the Low Contryes, and I thinke the heartes of the Frenche are also there, as will appeare shortely by theire doinges (if I be not deceaved). Frenche companies are levied dayly, with outwarde pretence to serue Don John, whoe expectethe great forces out of Italie; and, if the Frenche joyne with him, he wilbe a daungerous enemie for the Estates. Ambassadors are here at this presente; Mons^r de Vaux, late gouernoure of Artoyes, from Don John; and the Baron Dobigny, from the Estates. And thus I leaue to trouble your Lordship, most humbly prayinge you to accompte of me as of one that is wholly at your Lordship's comaundement, as knowethe the Almightye, whoe alwayes preserue your gode Lordship. From, &c.

TO S^R ARTHUR BASSET.

Good M^r Basset, You are so proude that you haue gotten my Lord of Bedforde into your contrey, that I doubt if you will vouchsafe to bestow the readinge of poor men's lettres; and yet I presume that your frendshippe towards me is so well grounded as neither prosperitie yn you, or aduersitie in mee, canne diminishe the same; and therefore do not doubt but that my lettres shall receive theire welcom after the old fashion. God graunte you and your contrey longe to enioy the presence of that noble gentleman; and make him as hapie in his gouernement, as you are hapie to be gouerned by him! Reward and punishment were well devised by our elders as

the onely meanes to maintaine the societie of mankinde ; and nowe you are assured that in your shire the good shall haue their iust comendacions, and the yll their due punishment. I trust to be so hapie to returne in convenient tyme to haue my parte of this hapines. Our quietnes is soche in these partes, as wee are now at good leasure to devise howe to trouble the quiet estate of other contries ; and you may be assured that manie great practises are in hande euen at this presente. I thanke you most hartely for your lettres. I pray you comend me most hartely to my cozin Chechester ; and God graunte vnto you bothe all increase of felicitie. From Paris, &c.

TO MR TREMAINE.

October 30,
1577.

S^r, Your lettres of the xiiijth of the last came to my handes the xixth this presente ; and you may be bolde to thinke that they were gladlye received as cominge from him whom I loue entirelye. I loue you because you loue mee ; but I loue you constantly and specially because you are worthie to be beloued. I desire moche to be dischargd of this journey ; and to be returned to my poore home, where I trust to refreshe my wearie mynde with the sweet pleasure of contrey lybertie. But I may say vnto you truly, that no other thinge there shall comforte me more then the fruition of your companie. I receive double joy of the discouerie of the Popish treacheries in Cornwall ; first, for the thinge yt selfe, as a matter tendinge to the advancement of God's kingdom, and to the suppression of the ministers of Sathan ; secondly, that yt hathe pleased God to make choice of my good friend M^r Grenefield to be his minister in this point of excelent service. I wishe vnto him increase in credyt, and all other hapines to his owne desire ; and doe not doubt but God will blesse him, because he is non of the luke-warne fellowes ; and, in deed, God deliteth only in those that deale

roundely, plainely, and sincerly in all their actions. Yt is easie to see that her Ma^{ty} might sleepe in all securitie without feare of all forraine power, yf her sherifes, justices, and soche lyke ministers were soche as did worshipec God truly, and serue her Highnes faithefully. But their winkinge or rather comfortinge in corners doethe more hurt then the Lords of the Councell are able to repaire, with all their diligence and industrie. The presence of the Earle of Bedforde one yeare in that contrie will heale all these mischiefes, and manie more. I would her Ma^{ty} had the lyke ministers in everie other parte of her realme. You are hapie to enioy him yett there at my returne, (*sic*) whereof I shall haue the better hope if no occasion be ministred to suspect the contynewance of this Frenche peace.

This Peace semethe strainge to all men, and no doubt is suspected of manie, and yet some of good iudgment are of opinion that this peace may breed manie good and profitable effects. God graunte yt to his honnor, and comfort of his afflicted Church! This peace was necessarie for bothe parties, being unhable to maintaine their cyvill warres anie longer, and perchaunce this necessitie may serue to good purpose to cause the dewe obseruation of this late Edict. God hathe blessed you, in that he hathe called you from the daungerous and vncertain estate of Princes' courtes to liue in the contrie, in all pleasure and suerty; and I reioyce with you in this blessinge, as also in your possibilitie to be shortly a father of a good Christian soule. And this is the portion of God's children; the wife is to be as a faithfull vine, and the children to stand aboute the table lyke oliue plants. And here, also, as for a matter of singuler comfort I must congratulate with you, as one that for the great loue I beare you am alwayes ready to participat with you in prosperities and aduersities, yn good and yll. God make you a hapie father of manie good children, and make me so hapie to see ones before I dye the mistres of Colocombe in her house! And thus, &c.

TO MR WALSINGHAM.

November 7,
1577.

Yt may please your Honor to be advertized that the Kinge came to this towne the first of this present; and the second in the morninge, beinge desirous to make some entrie into theise matters touching the shippes arrested of either side, accordinge to the contents of your last lettres, and vnderstandinge that Monsieur Pinart was at his house in the contrey, with intente to remaine there two monethes, I sent my sonne to Mons^r Lansacq, to pray him to advertise me if I might beleue his last message of the release of all the Englishe shippes, wherein I desired to be confirmed because I was given to vnderstand, by lettres out of England, that two of the best shippes were yet vnder arrest. Mons^r Lansacq answered that he was advertised frome his sonne that all the shippes were released, and that the messenger was in the courte, whom he sought with great diligens, but coulde not finde him; and then concluded that he woulde sende him vnto me after dynner. The next morninge the Lieftenant of Angoulmois, and Desportes, secretarie to the yonge Lansacq, came vnto me, the Secretary signifyinge that he was sent by the yonge Lansacq to assure me that all the Englishe shippes were discharged; that him selfe made theire pasportes; that he was an eye witnes of their departure; that his master thought them lawfully taken; that notwithstandinge, at the comaundement of the King, he had dismissed them; that the Frenche shippes were arrested in England; that the said shippes and theire marchandizes were no lesse worthe then 500000 frankes; and that order ought to be given for the release of the said shippes & marchandize. I asked him if he were assured that all the shippes were departed, because I had ben informed that two of the best were reserued. He assured mee that they were all released. I toulde him that yt was reported in this towne that the yonge Lansacq had sent some of theise shippes to Bourdeaux as his

owne, and with his owne ladinge ; he said No ; and they were all gone for Englande. Then I declared vnto him that yt ought not to be founde straunge if the Frenche shippes were arrested in England, when so manie Englishe shippes had ben first stayed in Fraunce ; diuers of the factors and masters made companions with the galley slaues ; great sommes of money exacted of them by way of raunsome for theire persones and ladinge ; and that as theise offices were vnworthie of the good amytie betweene theise two Realmes, tendinge directly to the violatiōe of the same, so I coulde not thinke that the Frenche shippes coulde now be deliuered vntill full satisfaction were made of theise manifest and open iniuries, and of the losses and dommages sustained by the Englishe marchantes. The secretary replied that indeed v or vi of the masters were ymprysoned ; that there was no monie exacted ; that the men and shippes were deliuered free, without raunsom or other payment ; and that one Mons^r Miron, sent thither by the King for this purpose, coulde witnes how all theise thinges passed ; and that Mons^r Lansacq would cause the same to be verified vnto me in this towne. I told him I had great cause to beleue that theise thinges were done in soche sorte as I had declared ; and, notwithstandinge, if Mons^r Lansacke would giue me to vnderstand from the King of any matter to the contrarie, I would not faile to advertise her Maiesty thereof. Then I prayed the Lieutenant Generall, whoe was sent hither for no other purpose then to be a witnesse of our comunicacion, to tell Mons^r Lansacq that he had the reputacion to be a louer of peace, and to have ymployed his vttermost indeuor, from tyme to tyme, to conserue the good amytie betweene theise two Crownes ; and, therefore, shoulde doe well to procure due satisfaction to be made of these wronges ; whereof would ensewe, not only release of the Frenche shippes, but also comfort and bouldnes to her Maiesty's subiectes to contynue theire trafficq in this realme as in tyme past. The Secretarie had said, in his first discourse, that at the deliury of the Englishe shippes two only masters remayned,

whoe sythence desired to goe to Rochell, and had their passport to this effect; and where they were now he could not tell. This tale was vttered so suspiciously, as I beganne to doubt what was become of these men; therevppon I tolde him that the old Lansacq, in his first message of the release of these shippes, did aduertise me that some English men remayned yet prisoners, for some insolencies comytted by them; and that I doubted not but that these prisoners were the same which he said to be sent to Rochell by passport; and, therefore, if they were ymprisoned by the yonge Lansacq, yt were reasonable that they shoulde answer for their furthcominge. The Secretary began to stagger in his tale, and could not call to his remembrance that any Englishe men were ymprisoned, so as I feare least these two men sent by passport be the masters of M^r Sacforde's two barks, and then they haue revenged the complainte made by his other servant.

The first of this presente, two Englishe marchants repayered vnto me from Roane, to informe me that three small Englishe barks (but richely laden) were arrested at Deepe, as lykewise all the marchandizes belonging to the Englishe marchants in Roane, and that they had ben with Mons^r Carouges for the dischargd of the arrest made at Roane, who answered that he looked to vnderstand the King's pleasure verie shortely, and then trusted to satisfie their request. The marchants, doubting to be delayed, desired my helpe, and I was not sory to haue these occasion to rypp vppe these broken matters. I sent to Brulart (who supplyethe the place of Pinart in his absence) to moue the King for the release of these shippes and marchandizes, trusting by this occasion to haue opportunitie to enter into further conference. I receaved answer that lettres should be graunted by the King aswell for Deepe as for Roane, for the release of the shippes and marchandizes arrested there, and shoulde be deliuered vnto me the next morninge, but that the same myght not be effectuatede vntill the Frenche shippes arrested in England were restored. Seinge that I heard no more from Mons^r Lansacq, and that Brulart

had ministred no other matter, I returned my secretary furthwith to Brulart, to tell him that I had consydered of his answer; and, as I desired nothinge more then the contynuanee of good amyty betwene theise two Realmes, so I thought good to deale playnly with him, and to signifie vnto him that I did not thinke theise Frenche shippes shoulde be deliuered vntill the Englishe marchants were fully satisfied of the sommes of money exacted by the yonge Lansacq for the raunsome aswell of theire men as of theire marchandizes, as also of theire other interrest and damages; that the said Englishe marchants had presented a supplication to her Ma^{tie} to that purpose; that the Frenche shippes were moche hindred by this stay; that this hunderance woulde be increased by this delay; that this vaine hope woulde be very preiudiciall vnto them; that this matter required present remedie; that this inconvenience coulde not be remedied by any other meane then by the full satisfaction of the Englishe marchants spoyled before Brouage; and therefore prayed him to consider of yt, either with the King or otherwise, as he thought good. He answered that the motion was verie reasonable; that the English marchants ought to be satisfied; that the fact could not be excused; that he did alwayes thinke that the Frenche shippes woulde not be deliuered but with this condicion; that he would not faile to move the Kinge in yt; and that I shoulde haue answere in the morninge. Your interest (saithe he,) cannot be greater then ours, and therefore there must be no mention made of them.

The next morninge, after manie protestacions of his godd affection to nourishe peace and quietnes betwene theise two Crownes, he tellethe my secretary that he hathe moved this matter to the King; that if any satisfaction were to be required, the same woulde not be of great valewe; that the King was sufficient to recompence yt; that yt semed that the Queen of England would give the lawe to the King his master; that the Englishe shippes and marchandize arrested here woulde [not] be released vntill the Frenche shippes in England were deliuered; and that if he would [return] after dynner, he should haue

the pasporte whiche he required, and also lettres for the marchants, to soche effect as ys before mentioned.

At the tyme appointed, I sent my secretary for this pasport and lettres, who declared vnto him that he had deliuered vnto me his message; that the same was nothinge answerable to my expectation; that, as I was not ignorant that the King was more then able to recompence theise spoyles yf he would, so I knew very well that the Englishe marchants were lesse then hable to beare them without their vtter vndoyng; that I had no hope the Frenche shippes would be deliuered vntill order were taken herein; that my motion tended to quietnes; and that now I referred the successe of theise thinges to the good pleasure of our superiours. Mons' Brulart answerethe that the message which he deliuered vnto him that morninge was of himselfe, and prayed that it might be so taken; that the King's pleasur was in substance only this, that he did not thinke good to deliuer the goodes and shippes arrested here vntill the Frenche shippes were released in England; and that vppon advertisement received of late from his ambassador, he was perswaded that his shippes were deliuered allreadie, or shoulde be shortely. Brulart added that this fact of the yonge Lansacq was done and could not be vndone; that he could not allow yt; that vppon informacion given to the ambassador there of the wronges don to the English marchants at Brouage, he did think (but could not promise yt from the King) that Lansacq's doinges should be examined, and order taken accordinge to equitie; and that, for his parte, he desired nothinge more then that the matter were well ended, and the rather (the sooner) the better.

My secretary praied him to consider that as the first arrest was made of their side, so yt was reasonable that the release should also proceed first from them, with other lyke perswasions, but in vaine.

This is all I can gett of them; and now yt is easie to see that they care not moche how you take yt. The marchandizes arrested in

Roane are of small value; but yt is lykely that they haue made the lyke scarce in St. Malo, Morlarys, and other places. I trust this good occasion will so discover theire further scope, as shalbe for her Ma^{ties} suretie and quiet. The Spanishe faction here will not faile to take this opportunitie to procure our further trouble if they may, if this difference be not ended with quietnes. Yt shalbe easie to make a good matche in Guien, Rochell, Languedocq, and those partes, if the matter be well handled. Yt is most certaine that the King of Navarre hathe written of late to the Prince of Condé to looke well to himselfe, and that he had never more need. The Queen of Navarre hathe said that yt should cost 20,000 cannon shote before she will goe to her husbände; a matter of great consequence in my simple opinion, if theire be any vawle in the man. Those of Dauphin will not vnarme vntill the siedge of Minerba be leuied. The Admirall and his adherents are not quiet in Languedocke.

Those of Rochell, at the solicitation of the Mayor, Lieutenant, and other corrupt fellowes of that towne, resolued in theire counsell house, that the Prince of Condé shoulde come no more within theire towne, and despatched a messenger towards him with this message, who, thinkeinge to find him at St. Jean d'Angely, repaired thether; and, learneinge there that the Prince was at Ponts, was intreated to returne againe to Rochell, and leaue his message vndone. The Prince would take no knowledge of this resolution, but sent his *maistre d'hostie* to make provision for him in Rochell, where he was received without contradiction.

The Secretary of Spaine, discoursing of late of the state of the Low Contries, with one whom he took to be his good frinde, said, amonge other thinges, that he was assured the Frenche King would attempt nothinge against the Kinge his master, and that the Queen of England was only to be doubted; but (saiethe he) when the Low Contries shalbe appeased, the French King and the King my master *ruyneront et mectront soubz terre ceste malheureuse Royne* (I vse his owne wordes). Yt is said that the yonge Lansacq armethe foure

great shippes, and he will sett them to the seas shortly. Three thousand Spaniardes & 1,200 horsemen are said to be well advanced towards Don John, and the last of them to be alreadie entred Lafranche Cont.

Chamberlain, sonne to S^r Leonard Chamberlain deceased, after manie secret conferences with Mankenfield, lately arrived here from Roane; and others of their confederacie dispatched his kinsman into England the thirde of this presente, whose name I can not learne, but he is of a reasonable stature, high colored, a greene cloke lyned with redd, the band of his hatte weaved with siluer lace, and his gaskins of redd clothe.

The Baron Dobbigny, with his companion, haue sent me word that they will com vnto mee, and I haue looked for them theise three or four dayes, but they come not. They pretend[ed] at their first cominge, in their conference with my ministers, to make lyttle accompt of the Frenche, and to depend wholly of her Ma^{ty}, not sparinge to enter into some loftie speaches of the Guise, the Spanishe faction in Fraunce, and of the Frenche matters. Not withstandinge, I haue ben informed that, even at that tyme, they assured Mons^r, that if they were forced to forsake the obedience of their Kinge, (which they did beleue and expect,) they would receive him with no worse condicions then they had heretofore received Charles the Vth, and in this meane tyme would recompence his favoure with pensions, and other honorable consideracions. A gentleman hathe ben sent hither vnto them from the Estates, to advertise the ymprysonment of the Duke of Arscote and others at Gand; and, althoughe longe sithence, yet now especially they haue gone so farre as yt is too late to returne, and therefore shalbe forced to give them selues to some Prince that canne and dare to defende them. The Frenche cann make their profitt theireof, and haue resolved not to leaue them vntill they haue constrained them to speake Frenche or Englishe; and now the consultacions are renewed, their departure is delayed; they must attend the cominge of the Queen of Navarre; and if this tyme will not serue

a gent. shalbe sent into the Low Contreyes, and they shall tarry his retourne, and thus they shalbe danded vntill they haue given them selfs wholly vnto them. And yet the generall opinion of the wisest here is, that they wilbe abused in thende; that the Frenche will betray them; that they meane nothinge lesse then to relieue them; and that the Kinge and Queen Mother are in their hartes against yt, and all the old counselors about this court, althoughe yt may be that Mons^r and many yonge men about him do desire yt. Of the other side, the Frenche souldiers repaire dayly to Don John, in great companies; manie of good countenances prepare for this service; great somes of money are taken vp in this towne for the Spaniardes. The Queen of Navarre ys yet at Lafeare, remaineing there as yt were of purpose vppon this passage to entertaine the intelligence betwene the Frenche and Don John. The Kinge openly forbiddethe the Cap^{ms}, and thereof assurethe the Deputyes, and yet secretly permittethe them to leave companies. And the Guise [is] so firmly lynked to Don John, as yt is not easie to breake their frindshippe. These practises will breake out when the Spanishe forces shalbe arrived. This matter is of soche consequence, as I dare not vtter my simple opinion; but, vnder correction, I will only say that yt behouethe her Ma^{ty} to do moche or nothinge at all. There is no meane as I take yt.

I haue stayed the sendinge away of this pacquet these two daies vppon hope to learne some certaintie of the doinges of the Low Contries, wherein yt may please your Honor to credyt this bearer, havinge caused the same to be reported here to soche as will not forgett yt if neede require. Yt may please your Honour to consider of my old frend; he is yonge, and may be a good servant many yeares; he hathe good frendes, good credyte, and good meanes; he was put in hope longe sithence, by him whome you knowe, and now he expectethe answer. And thus, &c.

Post script.—The Baron Dobignie had occasion to be in some partes nere to my house, and there beinge advertized by chaunce that he was not farre from me, cam vnto me accompanied with a

French gent. when I was vpon the point to seale theise lettres. I thinke he did [not] enter into any discourse with me because of his companion; and therefore, after some talke of comon matters, he toke his leaue of me, and goinge towards the gate, tolde vnto me that his comminge hither was to informe the King of the inocentie of their cause; that they doubted the forces of the Guise; that the King promised ynoughe; that, notwithstandinge the French souldiers resorted to Don John, and were enrolled dayly in this towne for his seruice; that the French promises were not vnknown vnto mee; that the cause of the Low Contreyes was our cause; that I would pray her Ma^{ty} so to consyder of yt; that the Estates had discouered a great treason of late; that the Duke of Arscote and four others were prisoners; that he thought the Duke of Arscot to be guiltles; that I would assure her Ma^{ty} of his faithfull seruice; and that he woulde see me againe shortely.

Sigongues, gouernor of Deepe, comethe vnto me whilest Mons^r Dobignie was yet with me; with whom I had a longe discourse touchinge the shippes arrested of bothe sides, and havinge ben already advertised that he had great particuler interrest in the arrest of the French shippes, I told him as plaine a tale as I could of the whole state of this matter, and what woulde be the ende thereof; and, as the first arrest was made by them, so they might be assured that we would be the last that would release. Yt seemed that he was sorye that he had not spoken to me soner, and I thinke my conference with him will doe no hurte.

TO M^R WALSINGHAM.

I haue ben informed by Audeley Donnet that he hathe bene advertized from his frendes of your Honour's good affection towards him, and of your frindly remembrance to place him with M^r Doctor Willson, at his first cominge to be secretary to her Maiesty; wherein he thinkethe himselfe deeply beholdinge vnto you, and will not faile

(I dare answer for him) to acknowledge this your speciall favoure, with all the service that may ly in his lyttle power. And, althoughe I must confesse that I may ill spare his honest, diligent, and faitheful service duringe the tyme of my aboad here, and do loue him so well as I would not change him for anie other, yet I would be sorye and ashamed that his good deserts towards mee, and my good affection towards him, should in any sorte hinder his preferment. And therefore, consideringe that onleaste he be in place to take his chardge vnder M^r Wilson at his first entery into this roome of Secretary, he shalbe lyke to loose the credyt of his service, which beinge ones possessed by another will not be easily removed, I tender his advancement so moche as for his sake I shalbe glade to forget my privat comoditie, and shall permitt him to repaire into England to this purpose when you shall apointe. You may be bold to assure M^r Wilson that this man is sounde in relidgion, honest in conversacion, quiet in house, diligent in service, and lovinge and trustie where he professethe his service. Yt may please you not to repent hauing ben carefull for his well doinge, vntill you shall finde him vnworthie of your favoure, which shall never be for want of thankfulness or ready good will to do you all faithefull service.

This other matter must be handled with great secretnes, because yt ymportethe me and my Frende deeply. There will want no diligence in the other partie to beat out the truthe. I haue written to my Lord of Leicester touchinge my licence to retourne, in soche termes as shall appeare vnto your Honour by this copie enclosed, havinge also written them to my Lord Treasurer. And thus, &c.

TO MY LORD OF LEICESTER.

My verie good Lord, To avoyd newe repetitions, and because your Lordship may be fully advertized of all that passethe from me, I haue thought good to trouble you with this copie inclosed of my lettres to Mr. Walsingham, which yt may please your Lordship to accept

instead of longer lettres to your selfe, havinge referred some matter of ymportance touchinge the Low Contryes to the report of this bearer, whom yt may please your Lordship to credyt. I haue heard say that yt is, for the most part, one yeares worke to provide a successor for this place; and, therefore, havinge now served here one yeare and more, I woulde thinke my selfe moch bounde vnto your Lordship, yf yt would please you to enter into consyderacion for the supplie of this chardge by some other, wherein I haue none other hope then in yo^r Lordshipes favoure. Yt may therefore please your Lordshipe to moue her Ma^{ty} herein in convenient tyme, wherein I would be sory to be soe ymportunat to deserue her Highnes' displeasure, and indeede wilbe a suitor herein no otherwise then as the same may be agreable to your Lordshipe. And thus, &c.

TO MY LORD TREASORER.

My verie good Lord, To avoid new repetitions, and because your Lordshipe may be fully advertised of all that passethe frome me, I haue thought good to trouble you with this copie enclosed of my lettres to Mr Walsingham, which yt may please your Lordship to accept instead of longer lettres to your selfe, havinge referred some matters of ymportance touchinge the Lowe Contryes to the reporte of this bearer, whom yt may please your Lordshipe to credytt. I haue heard say that it is, for the most part, one yeares worke to provide a successor for this place; and, therefore, havinge now serued here one yeare and more, I would thinke my selfe much bounde vnto your Lordship, yf it would please you to enter into consyderacion with her Ma^{ty} for the supplie of this chardge by some other. And, therefore, yt may please you to moue her Ma^{ty} in convenient tyme, wherein I woulde be sory to be so ymportunat to deserue her Highnes' displeasure; and, indeed, wilbe a suitor herein no otherwise then as the same may be agreable to your Lordshipes

good advise, as knowethe the Almightye, whoe alwayes preserue your good Lordship. From Paris, &c.

Post script.—I feare to comytt anie thinge to your Lordship's zipher; and, therefore, yt may please you to provide me of a better. I haue ben bould to vse your Lordshipe's zipher at this present, because I doe not thinke the tyme to be very daungerous!

TO MY LORD OF WARWICKE.

My verie good Lord, I faile so seeldom to write vnto your Lordship, as I trust you will not condempne me for the first fault; and especially when the same dothe not proceede of wilfulnes, negligence, or want of due consyderacion of my dutie towardes you; and in deed your Lordship may be bold to haue this opinion of me, that I write as willingly vnto you as to anie noble man lyvinge. I did forbear to write by my last messenger, because I had no new thinge worthie of your Lordship, our actions of hostilitie beinge now turned into consultations, which perchaunce proue daungerous to our best neighbors; and then experience will [teach] vs to our paine that occasions lost are not easilie recouered. Yt may seeme reasonable in matters of estate, to measure our conscience in our doings towardes others by their intents and resolutions towardes vs; I meane where the same are plainly discouered, so that our prevention do not appeare to proceed of ambition or needlesse feare. Our enemyes wilbe nothinge so curious in their exactions against vs, whoe do forbear vs because they cannot hurt vs, and will not spare vs when they take vs at advantage. The Spaniard preparethe for his owne neede, and the Frenche armethe for companie; and surely, if wee care for our suretie, we shalbe nothinge behinde them. Yt may be doubted if the Low Contryes wilbe hable to hold all the forces which are now in preparinge in Italie, Spaine, Fraunce and Germanie; and perchaunce they may goe further if no provicione

be made to withstand them. Their relidgion, there former doinges, and this suspected tyme, do move vs to be ware of them. I leaue them and their practizes to the carefull consyderacion of your Lordship and others my Lords of her Maiesty's Councell.

The Ambassadors of the Low Contryes are yet here, and looke for their resolute answer very shortly; yn this meane tyme forces resorte dayly to the Duke of Guise, and then your Lordship may be assured that Don John cannot lacke them. I pray God the irresolution of the Estates be not their confusion! Yt is said that those of Dampinie [Dauphiné?] will not vnarme onleast the siege before Minerba be leuied. The Prince of Condé is at Rochell, and great hope is conceaued of his constancie. And thus, &c.

TO THE EARLE OF LYNOLNE.

My very good Lord, I am earnestly requested to recommend vnto your good Lordshipe a suite dependinge before you, betwene Margaret Bourderell, late wife of John Salueny, merchant, and inhabitant of this towne of Paris, deceased, and Thomas Caltrope, of London; wherein yt may please your Lordshipe to require your officers to graunte expedicion, referringe the equitie of the cause to their consyderacion.

The arrests of the shippes in England dothe cause manie brutes in this contrye, every man discoursing as his affection leadeth him, whereof the greater parte desire nothinge more then to ruffle the cardes, and to be doinge they care not where or howe. I haue traveled for the release of the English shippes arrested at Deepe, whiche will not be graunted vntill the Frenche shippes be deliuered, which they accompt here to be don alreadie; they are so well perswaded of our quiet disposition, as they thinke that theise great iniuries wilbe satisfied with a few faire wordes. I leaue this to the better consideracion of your Lordship, and others my Lords of her Maiesty's Counsell.

The Ambassadors of Don John and the Estates are yet here, where they want no faire wordes; but of which side the deedes will fall out yt is not certainly knowen, althoughe most men thinke that the Spaniardes credyte in this courte will not leave Don John vnassisted, and in deed soldiers resorte vnto him dayly out of theise partes. And thus, &c.

TO M^R DOCTOR WILSON.

S^r, Yt was not for sparinge of ynke and paper that I did not write vnto you by my last messenger, havinge receaved your lettres of the xxijth of the last when I had already signed my lettres, and the curier readie to depart. Yt is easie to see by your lettres your dutifull affection towards your Prince and contrey, and I may perceave as easily your frindly disposition towards me. God maintaine you in the first, and send you manie fellowes that will, cann, and dare to joyne with you in this godly and zealous course! And for the seconde, I will presume to intertaine you therin, if my thankefullnes and assured good will may suffice. I am glade to heare that you are at the Court in theise daungerous tyme, where I wishe vnto you increase of honor and felicitie; and, indeed, yt is now that faithefull servants must make prooffe of their wisdom, roundenes, stowtenes, and integritie. Our enemies are manie, craftie, and malicious; and resolute to do vs all the hurt that they may: our frindes are few, or non at all. Our selves so full of conscience, that our conscience will not serue vs to defend our selues from knowen and manifest daungers. We are bold to feare nothinge where the perill is most ymmynent; we are fearefull and afraid of everie shadow where thinges are most easie. Theise are the fruits of securitie, a dangerous counsellor for this vnquiet tyme. God hathe preserued vs hitherto, and now (I doubt not) although late ynoughe, we shall assay to helpe our selues, and make our lawfull profit of soche law-

full meanes as God hath lawfully put into our handes. And this must be donne now or never; we are come [to] the last cast; the ax is layed to the rote of the tree; our only buckler remaineing is now in daunger to be cloven in peces, and then let vs look to our tackle; our turne wilbe next.

This is ynoughe of this matter. The Ambassadors of the Lowe Contryes, aswell for Don John as for the Estates, are yet here, and there is great expectacion what wilbecome of their negotiation, the one and the other havinge great partisans in this courte; and yt is thought that the resolution wilbe taken within two or three daies; and in the meane tyme Frenche souldiers resorte dayly to Don John; so as some thinke the olde league with the Spaniarde wilbe preferred before all the newe acquaintance. Yt may be easie to iudge by our actions at home what wilbecome of theise matters abroad; and therefore I referre them to your better consideration. And thus, &c.

TO MR LEIGHTON.

My good neighbour, You must haue some few lynes from mee by everie messenger duringe your abode at the Court, where I wishe your contynewance vntill I may be so hapie to finde you there. Our actions of hostilitie are turned into consultations, and I pray God they be not to their neighbours [hurt]. The Frenche are now at good leasure to harken to the estate of other contreys; and yet I thinke they will [not] be advised to enter into anie forreyne warre vntill their matters at hom shalbe better settled. We must proceede herein by degrees. The Queen of Navarre must be reconciled to her husband; the King of Navarre must be intreated to com to the Courte, and to follow the example of Monsieur. The good intertainement of the Kinge of Navarre shall encorage the Prince of Condé to do the lyke; and then wee shall begine to consider what may be fitt for vs to doe at home

and abroad. And yet in this meane tyme the Lowe Contries will not be forgotten, which shalbe nowe the sinke to receave all the treasons and treacheries of the Frenche, which haue so longe troubled their owne contry. God graunte you in England to deliberat wisely, to resolute speedily, and to execute resolutely; [it] beinge not to be doubted but that these Spanishe matters ymporte vs deeply, and require speedy and vndelayed remedies; I comytt them to the good directions of the Almighty. I pray you be content with these few lynes; my good will towards you is sufficient to supplie the rest. And thus, &c.

TO M^R HENEAGE.

S^r, Amonge manie troubles and displeasures which doe accompanie my service in this place, this one thinge dothe comforte me, that by this occasion I haue not only renewed acquaintance with you, which by longe absence beganne to be spent and worne, but also am entered into a straight league of ffrindshippe, whereof your frendly lettres are a most sufficient witnes of your parte, and soche slender effects as my poore abilitie canne yeelde shalbe ready to testifie my lyke disposition towards you vppon all occasions occurringe. And so I pray you make accompt of mee, as I will assure my selfe of you, and will not spare you where I may stand you in steed.

The Low Contries are now subiect of our French councells; the Ambassador from Don John and the Ambassador from the Estates contending with great devotion whoe may vse best arguments to draw the Kinge to his partie. Manie thinke that the resolution was made longe sythence. And then yt may be feared, lest the same reache to othere neighbours abroad. Tyme will discover their intents, perchaunce to late; and therefore wisdom must foresee them and policie must prevent them. This contrye yeldeth no other newe thinge at this present, and therefore with my most hartie

thankes for your advertisements of the occurrents of your parts, I comende me most hartily to you, and you to God. From Paris, &c.

TO MR EDWARD HORSEY.

November 7,
1577.

S^r,—The comon curtesie of Court, which is alwayes forward in outward forme, were sufficient to move me to salute you with theise few lynes; but I am stirred therto by remembrance of the good freindshippe betwene vs of longe contynewance, and by the good effects of the same which I haue receaued from you diuers and sondry wayes. I pray you let yt not repent you to vse me frindly, vntill yt shall repent me to accompt you in the number of my best assured frindes. And vntill occasion may serue me to make profe of my thankfulness, by some offices worthy of your good frindshippe, I pray you accept theise my lettres as a pledge of my poore good will, which shalbe allwayes at your comaundement. Our consultacions here are not yet broken out to anye open conclusions. The Ambassadors of Don John and of the Estates are fedd with faire wordes, and now they looke for their resolute answer in two or three dayes; and in this meane tyme the Frenche souldiours resorte dayly to Don John. You know the Spainard lackethe no credyt in Fraunce; and vnleast the Estates will play bankropte, I thinke they wilbe abused here. I trust you accompt of me after the olde fashion, and vppon that hope I comende me most hartily vnto you. And so do comitt you to the mercifull protection of the Almightye. From Paris the vijth of Nouember, 1577.

TO MR WALSINGHAM.

November 9,
1577.

Yt may please your Honour to be advertised that the Baron Dobigny and his associat Mons^r Mansart came to my lodginge the viijth this present; and after some short speches of other matters,

declared vnto me, that they trusted to depart very shortly; that they had ben that morninge with the King; that bothe he and Queene Mother had given their faithfull promise not to permytt any of his nobilitie or captaines to take armes against them; that they woulde write to the Comt Mansfield to withdrawe him from Don John; that there was no meane to stay the comon souldiours; that the late wars in the Low Contryes had given good experiens thereof; that they would lykewise take order for the restraint of all kindes of victuells and munitions, as also that no exchange of money should passe by the handes of Frenche subiects; that they esteemed of them as of their good neighbours and frendes, and woulde doe nothinge to their preiudice. I answered that at the departure of my last messenger out of England, her Ma^{ty} knew nothinge of their beinge here; that I had no expresse comaundement to say any thinge vnto them; that they knew the dutie of ymbassadors woulde not permitt them to deale rashly in matters of estate, without warrant and commission; that I had considered of the old and auncient intelligence betwene the Crowne of Englande & the Howse of Burgondie; that this straite league of amitie was grounded vppon honor, profitt, and suretie; that this mutuall frindshipp coulde not be forborne, without dishonor, losse, and perill to their partie, as their case now stode; that I was not ignorant of her Ma^{ty}'s good affection towards the Prince of Orange and the Estates; that I doubted not they woulde acknowledge her frindly favoure towards them in all their necessities; that therefore I thought good to offer my selfe vnto them, to doe them anye pleasure that might lye in my lyttle power; that I wished her Ma^{ty} were made acquainted with their doinges abroad; that I woulde not faile to advertise her of so moche of their proceedinges here with the Frenche Kinge, as they had signified vnto mee; that the newes woulde be verie acceptable vnto her; that this promise made by the King and his mother was verie honorable; that, in my simple opinion, yt was not ynoughe to restrayn the nobilitie, onleast the comon souldiours were also stayed; that Don John

wanted no capitaines; that he desired only Frenche harquebushers; that manie wer said to be gon alreadie; that by this accompte manie others might follow; that the power of a King in his owne contry was greate; that he might stay all sortes, if he woulde; [that if they did] require me to signifie anye other thinge to her Ma^{ty}, that I would performe their desire. They replied that they had propounded nothinge to the Frenche King that might be preiudiciall to her Ma^{ty}; that they had only signified the equitie of their cause, and diswaded the enterprise of the Duke of Guise and his associats; that they made singuler and speciall accompt of her Highnes' favoure towards them; that they were not yet forced by necessitie to shake off their yoke of obedience to their King and soueraigne; that indeed they had saied, if their King did perseuere in his cruelties and persecutions they shoulde be constrained to seeke the ayd of some forreyne Prince; that, notwithstandinge these faire promises, the Frenche souldiers resorted dayly to Don John; that they woulde move the King againe to take better order, aswell for the presente as for the tyme to come; that they prayed her Ma^{ty} to consyder of them; that this warre was chardgeable vnto them; that a good beginnunge would assure a good endinge; that they praied her Ma^{ty} to enlarde her offers, and desired me to recomende their cause. I tolde them that, as I would not fail to aduertize her Ma^{ty} of their request, so I did not doubt of their wise proceedinges, wherein they hade this singuler advantage, to negotiat with soche as were no straingers vnto them; that they had felt the crueltie and rapine of the Spaniarde; that lykewise they knew the humore and complexions of the Frenche; and that (thankes be to God!) her Ma^{ty} had the reputacion to deale plainely and sincerly with all men. Then I asked them what they hearde of the Archeduke Mathias. They said that they vnderstoode by lettres written to Montemorencie that he was yet at Lira; I told them I was of opinion (to speake plainely vnto them) that no Prince in Europe had ben to all respects so fitt and convenient for them as the King of Spaigne, if he had ben content to entreate

them as his good subiects, and gouerne them in mercie and justice; but consyderinge his infidelitie, crueltie, and tyranny, and the present state of their matters, I cannot hope that anie good can come vnto them by any of the House of Austriche; and that in reason and iudgment they ought to hold them as suspected. They said they were of the same opinion. And thus, after some ordinary ceremonies, they tooke their leaue of me.

The originall of this copie inclosed was brought vnto me the ixth of this presente at noone; the contents of the same beinge confirmed by the messenger sayinge that he thinketh that all the Englishe shippes, excepte those two belonging to M^r Sackeford, which remaine yet at Blay, findinge the wynde lardge, are gon into Englande, and were pursewed by the yonge Lansacq's shippes, but in vayne. And now your Honour may see what truthe is in these great felowes, and how coningly the yonge Lansacq's secretary was sent to confirme the release of these shippes, trustinge by this subtiltie to procure the dischargd of their shippes in Englande, and then they woulde haue talked with you at leasure for the rest; and therefore, hearinge that the Frenche Ambassador is very ymportunat for the release of the Frenche shippes, and doubtinge least his faire wordes and the great affirmacion made from hence of the dischargd of our shippes might move you to condescende to their desire, I thought good to vse all diligence that this copie inclosed might come to your handes, and therefore haue sent these lettres to Roane by one of my servants with speede, not doubtinge but that John de Vignes ys yet there, whoe shall bringe this pacquet vnto your Honor. Yn this meane tyme I will deale with some of the King's counsell, and with the King himself, as occasion shall serue, whereof you shalbe advertized.

Great suite hath bene made vnto me of late by seuerall Scottish-men for my pasporte to go to the Courte of Englande, where they trust to obtaine licence to repaire to the Queene of Scottes; and every of these fellowes bringethe his seuerall reason. Yt may seeme that some here haue great hast to heare from her. I

excuse my selfe vppon the great brute which hathe ben of late in this towne of troubles in Scotlande, and tell them that I will graunt no pasport vntill I heare further of their proceedings. Yt may please your Honour touchinge theise pasports. And thus, &c. From Paris, the xth of Nouember, 1577.

TO THE QUEENE'S MATIE.

November
19, 1577.

Yt may please your Ma^{ty} to be advertised that the xth of this presente Mons^r Segur, one of the house of Perdiean, (?) came vnto me with lettres from the King of Navarre; and, after a discourse of the necessitie of this last Peace, of the small hope y^t the same might longe contynew, of the froward dealinge of the Admirall and those of Bourdeaux, of the good order taken by those of the Religion in manie thinges, of the good affection of the Kinge of Navarre and the Prince of Condé to defend the cause of Religion, and of their faithfull good will towards your Ma^{ty}, he concludeth with a request to haue my advise touchinge two points, which did moche trouble the Kinge of Navarre (as he said); the first concerninge the intended reconciliacion between the said Kinge and his wife; the second touchinge a maryage between Mons^r and the King of Navarre's syster—the first beinge moved with great importunacie, and with no lesse frendly and honorable offers in outward apparance, Queen Mother and Mons^r desiringe to accompanie the Queene of Navarre in this journey, and are contented to referr their place of metinge, their traine, and all other lyke matters, to the consyderacion of the King of Navarre. Yf (saith he,) the King refuse his wife, he is assured of presente warre; yf he receive her, he exposeth his person to manie daungers. Touchinge the seconde, if the Kinge of Navarre's syster refuse a Kinges brother, and the second person in France, yt wilbe yll taken; if she accept him, the King of Navarre is also in perill.

I was not ignorant that yt might be ymputed vnto me for follye and rashnes to vtter my opinion plainely and sincerly in a matter of this ymportance, and especially vnto a straunger whom I had never seene before; but I consydered that, beside my good opinion of the partie vppon the good report that I had heard of him, this privat conference coulde not be greatly daungerous vnto me, and, perchaunce, were more convenient to be vttered by me then by any other; as also yt was to be feared least this matter would be made or marryd before this gentleman went out of this. I looked when he woulde have told me that this enterview betwene an old Queen and a yonge King might bringe furthe daungerous effectes, but he spake nothinge of yt.

Then I put him in remembrance that in the conclusion of the last Peace yt was thought vnmeete that the Frenche King shoulde repaire into Guienne, and to that purpose [it] was alledged that the divisions and parcialities had ben great and vehement in that province; that the same coulde not be appeased vppon the sodeine, the harts and stomackes of the nobilitie of bothe sides were yet full of venim and bitternes; that tyme was the only remedie for this sore; that the presence of the Kinge might encourage the Catholikes to enter into new factions, to the disturbance of the comon quiet of this realme; and that the Protestants coulde not so sodenly shake of all jealousies and suspicions; besides manie other reasones and arguments which were then considered to that effect. I told him I could not perceiue that the case was altered, savinge that yt was empeyred of their side; that the present state of their affaires did require further consyderacion; that the contrarie faction had discovered their venomous and malicious mindes; that the doinges of the Admirall and those of Bourdeaux tended to new troubles; that the King of Navarre was interrupted in his gouvernement contrarie to the edict and promise of the King; that this braverie of those of Bourdeaux did threaten lyke successe as had hapined to the Prince of Condé touchinge Peronn in Picardie; that the pre-

sence of the Queen Mother and Monsieur was to be respected lesse then if the King were theire in person ; that the former considerations had now more vertue then before ; that the Kinge of Navarre ought first to seeke the quiet possession of his gouvernement before he enterid into anie new treatie, or did yeld to anie interview. But (saithe he,) with what color may he refuse his wife ? and herewithall the Queen Mother pretendethe that her cominge thether shalbe especiall to establishe the King of Navarre in his gouvernement. I answered that yt was now tyme, if yt were not to late, to knowe the dispositions of theire aduersaries ; that they had felte to theire great grieve that the King made peace and warre in Fraunce at his pleasure ; that so manie treaties of peace, so often broken, had proved sufficiently that all the insolencies comitted by the Papistes duringe the peace were plain demonstracions that the King intended nothinge lesse than to conserue his edictes ; that, beinge at the Lover in his cabinet, he was to dispose of the Admirall and of those of Bourdeaux at his pleasure ; that they ought to belieue firmly and constantly that this presumptuous frowardnes of the Admirall and his assotiats proceeded from the Kinge, and was not done without his expresse comaundement ; that there was no neede of the Queen's presence to redresse theise disorders ; that this pretence had some further meaninge ; and that therefore the King of Navarre ought, first and above all thinges, to require order from the Kinge for his establishment in his gouernement. Touchinge the Queen of Navarre, I told him that there was no necessitie of the presence of Queen Mother and Monsieure ; that the journey was not daungerous ; that she might be accompanied with so manie of the nobilitie as she thought good ; and that, the King of Navarre proferringe to receave her in this order, she could not say that she had ben refused. You know (saithe he,) that there are some quarells betwene them, and the mediation of the [Queen] mother semethe to be needefull. I answered that I heard say that the King of Navarre desired nothinge more then to enioy the companie of his

wife, and had expressly required yt, which argued that he was allreadie satisfied; and if the Kinge [Queen ?] of Navarre were resolved to repaire vnto him, yt was not to be doubted but that she also had allreadie disgested all matters of vnkindenes; and then there was no neede of mediators, and that it was to be feared least theise prétexts served to colour some other practise. Then returninge to the second point, which concernethe the King of Navarre's sister, I said that a matter of this weight required good deliberacion; that the contraritie in relidgion was greatly to be consydered; that the pitifull successe of the mariage could not be performed without the assembly of the greatest parte of the nobilitie in Fraunce; that this tyme was not fitt for yt; that some sparkes of jalousie and suspicion did yet remaine of either side, and that therefore this treatie must be deferred to be considered at better leasure. I concluded that, as yt semed greatly requisit for the benefite of the Protestants to conserue this Peace, at the least some small tyme, so the only meane to effectuate the same ys to avoyde theise enterviewes and other practizes, and to refuse all conferences and other dealinges, vntill the Edict be fully executed, aswell in other thinges as touching the gouvernement of the King of Navarre.

He thanked me that I dealt thus roundly with him, wherein, he said, I had satisfied the expectacion of the King of Navarre: whoe was well perswaded of my good affection, as well towards him as towards the generall cause of relidgion; he said that the King of Navarre did referre himselfe herein to the good advise of your Ma^{ty}, and woulde not faile to follow your direction in all his proceedinges. I loked when he woulde say vnto me that it was to be doubted least by occasion of this interviewe the King of Navarre might be intreated to come to the Courte; but he made no mension of yt, and therefore I did also forebeare to couche yt in open termes.

He told me that the Kinge had given him leaue to come vnto me, and that he woulde see me againe before his departure.

Sithence this conference, one Mons^r de la Rocque is arrived here

from the Kinge of Navarre, to informe the Kinge of the great insolencies comitted daylie by the Admirall and his adherents in Guien; that, amonge other iniuries, they have rased a house and villadge belonginge to the King of Navarre; that those of Bourdeaux will not receave Biron (althoughe a Catholicke) within their gates; that the said King hathe good and sufficient meanes to revenge theise wronges; that he hathe forborne vppon hope to finde redresse from the King, and therefor praieth his speedie order; and that the Admirall may be removed from that gouvernement. Yt is thought that the conservacion or breache of this Edicte will depend verie moche vppon this resolucion. The matters of Niuernois, Province, and those parts, are in no better quiet; referringe the particularities of theise thinges to the report of Mons^r Segure, whoe was with me the xvth of this presente, accompanied with Mons^r La Rocque, and did appointe to departe the next day towards Englande. I haue longe conference with theise gentlemen, the same tendinge to soche ende as may appeare by a mynute sent herewithall to M^r Walsingham.

Consideringe the notable and daungerous faults comitted by those of the Relidgion in this last warre, yt is marvell to see that they could make anie peace at all, and that they haue not ben overthrowen without hope of recouerye. Their first entrie into this warre was with disorder and confusion, and moche to their disadvantage. The armie on the seas lost soche oportunitie, as after coulde not be recouered; the forreine soccour was not sought and procured in tyme convenient, places of importance were lost, some throwe negligence, some throw cowardenes; the longe parlamentinge by so manie wise and chosen councellors of the aduerse partie so nere a yonge King was manifestly daungerous, and (no doubt) brought forthe badd and vnprofitable effects, treasons in great personages, partialities amongst themselues, confucion in matters of councell, [and] some other great disorders not necessarie to be mensioned; theise faults, and manie mor of no lesse ymportance layed together, the

Protestants are moche bounde to God, that they haue made anie peace at all. They would excuse them selves vppon Danvill; and (no doubt) his revolt was of great consequence, but it is most certaine that yt had ben easie for them, without Danvill, to haue forced the King to repent him of the breache of this Edicte, and to seeke peace with reasonable condicions. The wise man dothe make his profitt of his neighbour's harme, and therefore theise men will not faile of theire owne harmes.

The Queen of N: is greatly pressed by the King and Queen Mother to repaire to her husband; they tell her that she shall gouerne him at her pleasure; that she shall wynne his principall counsellors to be at her devotion; that she shall bringe him to the Court; and that she shall do the Kinge, her brother, great service. Others tell her a contrary tale, and that if she forsake the Courte they will loke to see her no more theire. The event of this matter semethe yet doubtfull, althoughe manie are of opinion that she thinkethe nothinge lesse then to goe to her husbände.

The Count Charles Mansfield, Cap^{ten} Stephans, the younge Losse, and others, prepare to goe to Don John, and haue receaued money of his ministers here.

I heare no more of the Deputes, whoe are now said to depart verie shortely. I thinke they may be sory that they haue taried so long. Theire best frindes, and soche as tender the cause of relidgion, tell them plainely that they are abused, and that this Kinge will never do them good. And, indeed, the King hathe dealte verie roundely of late with Bussy, and others belonginge to Mons^r.

Yt hathe ben proclaymed here with great solempnitie, that no Frinche shoulde goe to the succoure either of Don John or of the Estates, vppon great penalties; and by the same straight chardge giventosoche as were allready departed to returne without delay vppon lyke paines; but theire doinges shewethe what the harte meanethe.

The xth of this presente, I sent my sonne to Mons^r Brulart, to signifie vnto him that, contrary vnto the informacion which I had

receaved from the old Lansacque, and confirmed by the secretary of the yong Lansaque, I was now advertised from Bourdeaux by a messenger sent of purpose that of the Englishe shipes taken by the yonge Lansacque, xvj were laden with salte, and the rest were vnladen; that the shippes vnladen were raunsomed at seuerall prises, spoyled of their victuells and munitions and other thinges, and so were dismissed at Brouage; that the factours and masters of viij of these xvj shippes laden with salt were constrained to pay for their owne salt, and more then the same was worthe, the masters of the other two shippes refusinge to yeld to this payment besides their losse in the payment, and in the spoyle of their victuells and munitions; that, not content with these exactions, the said xvj shippes were conducted by two shippes of warre towards the river of Bourdeaux, with intente there to vnlade their goodes to the vse of the yonge Lansacque, the masters of these shippes beinge bestowed as prisoners in one of the shippes of warre; that xiiij of these shipes, forced by fowle weather and contrary windes, were dispersed seekinge some harbour for their seurtie; that two of the greatest of these xvj shippes were brought into the river of Bourdeaux, their goodes vnladen, their sailes and other furniture had to the land, their victuells and munitions spoyled and taken away, and xlv Englishe men belonginge to these two shippes remaineing there without victuells or other provisions, to the extreame charges of the owner; that these doinges were moche contrary to the messages which I had receaved from him and other of the Kinge's Councell; that the same required speedie reformation; and therefor prayed him to informe the Kinge of yt, and to that purpose deliuered these contents vnto him in writinge. Brulart semed to be vnwillinge to heare of this matter, and indeed dothe pretende to mislyke moche with these insolencies, promisinge to move the King herein the next morninge, and woulde advertise me of his pleasure the next day after dynner. At the tyme appointed I sent my secretary vnto him, by whome I receaved answer that the King and Queen Mother were gon to meet with the Queen of

Navarre, and that he had not yet conferred with the King, which shoulde be don the next morninge; at which tyme I sent againe vnto him, and then receaved answer that the King had sent my bill to the yonge Lansacque and required him by his lettres to make full satisfaction of all theise suposed iniuries, and coulde say no more herein vntill he heard againe from the said Lansacque. My Secretary asked him if he would send me the copie of this dispatche, which he said to be vsually graunted in all marchants' causes, for theire better satisfaction. He said he coulde not deliuer anie soche copie. I could not be satisfied with theise sleueles answer, and therefore willed my secretary to say vnto him that I wished this matter were better consydered; that theise delayes were not only vnprofitable, but also daungerous; that no other thinge was to be expected from the yonge Lansacque then delaies and excuses, and that this course semed not to tend to quietnes. Herevppon I receaved answer from him the next day in writinge, the copie whereof I haue sent to M^r Walsingham, referinge the consideration of the same to your Ma^{ty}. I willed my Secretary to tell Brulart that this answere made mension of the release of the Englishe shippes, which seemed to be otherwise, by the bill which he receaved from me. He said that the answere was made accordinge to soche informacions as were given to the King.

When I was now readie to signe theise lettres, Mons^r Dobignie comethe vnto me, and tellethe [me] that, intending to departe the next day, he woulde not faile, aswell to take his leaue of me, as also to informe me that, notwithstandinge the large promises of the King and his many complaints vpon soche advertusments as he receaved dayli from his good frendes, he was assured that Count Mansfield and his followers prepared for theire voyage to Don John; that to that purpose he had receaved in this towne 7000 crownes; that he made accompte of 4000 Frenche souldiers; that he had provided 2000 caliuers, and was promised so manie more; that licence were graunted for great store of corne, to be sent to the releafe of Don

John ; that he expected a curier from the Estates eight dayes past ; that he thought him to be intercepted by the comaundement of the Kinge ; that the Estates declared [*? desired*] nothinge more then to liue in due obedience to theire Kinge and Soueraigne ; that they were readie to accept all reasonable condicons of lyfe and libertie, and that they trusted moche in your Ma^{tie}'s favoure.

Thus I haue troubled your Ma^{tie} with manie wordes, wherein yt may please you to pardon mee ; and now I ende with my most hartie prayers to the Almightye, that as by his mercifull goodnes, to the singuler comfort of all trew Englishe subiects, your Highnes hathe now entred the xxth year of your most hapie Raigne, so you may not only overliue, but also double, the Raigne of your Father ; which God graunte ! From Paris, &c.

TO M^R WALSINGHAM.

November
19, 1577.

Yt may please your Honour to be advertised that Maresshall Mountmorencie hathe ben expected here theise fve or six dayes, but he is not yet come. Men talke diuersly of Danvill, who remainethe at Pezonas in Languedocque ; and some doubt what wilbecome of him.

Yt is moche feared least there wilbe some mutinie in this towne, whereof there hathe ben some begininge alreadie, the people beinge moche discontented for manie causes ; but especially about the intended fall of monye, wherein if presente order be not given, yt is most certaine that some inconvenience will follow.

Chomerault is despatched from the Kinge to the King of Na: and another is gon to him from the Queene of Nav: You must allowe them a monethe or two to talke of the matter. Some badd matter is in brewinge, and some mischife is lykely to fall out shortely amonge them selves.

Yt is said that the Electour Pallatine hathe chased 140 mynisters out of his dominions.

I was in good forwardenes to haue discouered a matter of good

ymportance; and I was entered thus farre that three trayterous plottes haue ben sett downe againste her Ma^{ty} and her state; whereof one only hathe ben discouered, and the other two remayneinge vneffectuated, I cannot ympute the let thereof to anie other thinge then to the hope conceaved of the stay of theise shippes of bothe sides might breede warre betwene theise two Realmes. I trust to heare further.

Mr. Copley came to this towne xiiij dayes past and more, and shortly after repaired to my lodginge, where he discoursed vnto me some thinges that had passed betwene M^r Wilson and him, and pretended to beare a true and a faithfull hearte to her Ma^{ty} and his contrye, althoughe he coulde not dissemble his singuler affection to Don John. After longe conference betwene vs, he seemed to departe from mee verie well contente, and to take all that I had said vnto him in thaunkefull parte, promisinge to see me againe; but I heare no more of him, and do vnderstand that he is dayly conversant with De Vaux, Ambassador here for Don John. There is a badd nest of theise felowes in this towne, and there are dayly meetings and consultations betweene them. Denny (?) and Williams are recomended to Don John by the Duke of Guise, and serue in the Castle of Namure; where are also Wiseman, Blomfield, and diuers others Englishe men. Mr Englefield is at Luxembourge. There are dayly skirmishes betwene those of Namur and the Campe of the Estates, which is within one mile of Namur. Yt is beleevd here, that new companies of Spaniardes and Italians, to the nomber of 4000, are landed not farre from Genes, and shall com vnto the Low Contryes. And thus, &c.

TO M^r WALSINGHAM.

Yt may please your Honour to geue me leaue to referre you for the state of thinges here to theise copies inclosed of my lettres to her Ma^{ty} and the Earle of Leicester, wherein I would not faile to

write particularly vnto you, yf I did not know you to be so well affected of your selfe to the furtherance of theise lyke causes, as the same cannot be increased by my recomendacion. Yt is a good sporte to do well, and well doinge may be subiect to manie and daungerous stormes of envy and malice, but yt risethe againe with honour, and never tastethe of shippwracke. Although I doe not knowe that your Honour hath mett with anie contrary wyndes, yet I am not ignorant that theise flawes are more then ordinary amongst those of your profession. I reioyce moche with you, to see your fame and credite amongst the good men of this contrey; and, indeed, I canne meete with none of this sorte that dothe not loue you, and speake honorably of you. This recompence ys more then sufficient for manie backbitinges, and makethe them easie, thoughte they were never so manie. Yt may please you to let Mons^r Segure to know that I wish him to be intertained in England with all curtesie.

I sende vnto your Honour herewith a discourse sent lately out of Germanie, because I thinke yt will lyke you; and yet I doubt not but that the same is come already vnto your handes. I was driven for hast, to cause yt to be copied out by two or three scholers; wherein yt may please you to pardon me, and shall behoue you to comaunde yt to be written out againe before you can reade yt.

I am sory and ashamed that I haue not sent some thinge to her Ma^{ty} before this tyme, which I deferred vppon hope to haue provided somewhat worthie of her Highnes; but by occasion of the plague in Italie, there is no new thinge arrived here of late; and I can not find of the colour remended by your Honour. I have therefore thought good to sende soche as I cann finde; and because the same is not of so good price as I would wishe, I have sent of two sortes, and of ether sorte xx Englishe yardes; which I take to be more then ynnoughe to make two gownes; and herein, as in all other thinges, I must referre my selfe to your frindly consyderacion; most humbly prayinge your Honour to cause theise thinges to be presented, yf

you shall thinke they may be agreable; and if you shall finde them vnmeete, I will provide others very shortely. I am ashamed to deale thus boldly with you, but presume vppon your good frendshipe, and indeed I accompt yt the fairest flower in my garlande. The Frenche Queen hathe had a gowne made, sythence her cominge hither, of soche sattan as I send here withall.

I trust you accompt of me as of one that is at your Honour's comaundement. And so I comitt your Honour to the mercifull tuicion of the Almightye. Paris, &c.

TO MY LORD OF LEICESTER.

My verie good Lord, Althoughe Mons^r Segur, one of the house of November
Perdyllan, cominge from the King of Navarr, ys so well knownen to 19, 1577.
your Lordship as he needethe no recomendacion, yet I would not faile at his instante desire to trouble you with theise fewe lynes, and by the same to advertise your Lordship, aswell of his good affection towards the cause of relidgion, as also of [his] greate and earnest desire to nourishe and conserue good amytie betwene her Ma^{ty} and the King of Nav: a matter of yt selfe verie honorable, and at this tyme verie necessarie and profitable, in my symple opinion. This gentleman hathe verie good reputacion amonge those of the Religion, and will deserue to be well intreated. I haue ben so bould to assure him of your Lordship's singuler affection to the state of relidgion in generall, of your particuler dealinges with her Ma^{ty} to the furtherance and benefite of the churches afflicted, of your earnest care to increase amytie betwene her Ma^{ty} and all Princes Protestants, and of your good opinion and frindly inclynation towards the house of Bourbon.

I haue writen to her Ma^{ty} at good lengthe of the state of thinges here, not doubtinge but that my lettres wilbe ymparted to your Lordship; and, therefore, beinge assured of your presence at the

Courte, will not trouble your Lordship with vaine repetitions, beseching God to bless your counsell to his honour, and to the suertie of your P. and contrye. Yt is easie to see the daungerous confideracion and bloudye plottes set downe and concluded by a generall assent against the generall cause of Religion. Italie, Germanie, Fraunce, and Spaine haue their part in this treason, and yet our case is not desperat. God hath provided vs of good remedies, but now or never. Danvill is yet at Pezenas in Languedocque, and some doubt what wilbe come of him. Mountmorency hath ben expected here theise v or vj dayes, but he is not yet come. Chemerault is dispatched from the King to the King of Nav: and the reconsiliacon betwene the said King and his wife is followed withall carefull diligence. And thus I comitt your good Lordship, &c.

TO MY LORD TREASURER.

My verie good Lord, Althoughe Mons^r Segur, one of the house of Perdillan, cominge from the King of Na: is so well knownen to your Lordship as he needeth no recomendacion, yet I would not faile at his instant desire to trouble you with theise few lynes, and by the same to advertize your Lordship aswell of his good affection towardes the cause of Relidgion, as also of his great and earnest desire to nourishe and conserue good amytie betwen her Ma^{ty} and the King of Na:, a matter of yt selfe verie honorable, and at this tyme verie necessary and profitable, in my simple opinion. This gentleman hath verie good reputacion amonge those of the Relidgion, and is not vnworthie of your Lordship's favoure, whereof I haue ben bould to assure him. Knowinge your Lordship to be now at the Courte, I am not ignorant that my lettres to her Ma^{ty} wilbe ymparted vnto you, and therefore doe forbear to trouble your Lordship with vaine repetitions. I know your Lordship to be so carefull of her Ma^{ty}'s seurtie and quiet, that you will omytt no occasion to establishe the

same, and therefore would thinke that I hadd comitted a presumptuous fault, if I should vse manie wordes to your Lordship herein. Only I will say that, as our enemyes increase dayly in fury and number, so yt is to be wished that our old frindes were confirmed & new procured. And thus, &c.

TO THE EARLE OF SUSSEX.

My verie good Lord, I am verie willinge to trouble your Lordship with some fewe lynes by every convenient messenger, to signifie by the same my dutifull good will towardses you, and therefore would not omitt this good occasion to recomend vnto your Lordship Mons^r de Segure, one of the howse of Perdillan, dispatched towardses her Ma^{ty} from the King of N:, beinge reported to be verie zealous in relidgion, and no lesse honest in all his other dealinges. The messengers of amytie deserue theire welcom in all tymes, as a matter of yt selfe verie honorable; but in this frindlesse tyme, in this tyme of necessitie, the same seeme to be worthie of double welcom. The man is hapie in theise dayes that may haue frindes for the askinge, and no man is so vnwise to refuse the frindshippe that is profferid. Yt is not to be doubted but that our enemyes are manie, and yt is to be wished that our frindes were not fewe; God increase them! which will com to passe yf we, acknowledginge our owne necessitie, can be content to ymbrace soche frindes as his goodnes provideth for vs without our seekinge.

November
19, 1577.

The late Peace here is coldly established. The King of N: is not obeyed in his gouvernement. In Daphiné, Province, and other places, actions of hostilitie are yet practized. Complaints are brought daylie to the Court. Theise matters will abide no delay, and now yt will appeare verie shortly how the King is affected to conserue his own Peace; of his owne makinge. I heare he givethe great plentie of good wordes after the old fashion, but the Protestants require

present deede. The Baron Dobignie and others sent from the Estates haue had no want of fair promises. Open proclamacions haue ben made that no Frenche souldiers shoulde serue anie foreine Prince or Estate. Yt hath ben said that this state was yet vnsetled, and therefore woulde preserue theire owne for theire owne neede if anie should hapen ; and yet manie do thinke that men and munitions are sent dailie to the succoure of Don John. The greatest care of this Courte at this presente is to reconcile the Queen of Navarr to her husbände. No perswasions or other meanes are omitted that may serue to this purpose. Messengers passe dayly betwene them ; and yet the sucesse hereof is doubtfull in the iudgement of manie. I haue written at length to her Ma^{tie}, and I know my lettres wilbe ymparted to your Lordship. And thus I comitt your good Lordship to the, &c.

TO MY LORD OF WARWICKE.

My verie good Lord, Yt may please your Lordship to accept theise fewe lynes, vntill better store of matter worthie of you shall giue occasion of longer lettres, and then your Lordship may be assured to finde me no nigard of ynke and paper. Mons^r Segure, one of the howse of Perdyllan, and gentleman of the King of Navar's Chamber, comethe from him to her Ma^{tie}; and because he hathe the reputacion to be zealous in relidgion, and honest in all his other dealinges, I would not faile to recomende him to your Lordship's favoure, althoughe I know men of his qualitie are never vnwelcome to you, and indeed this opinion is receaved of you generally by all the Protestantes of theise partes; and I wish that all soche as beare office about her Ma^{tie} did deserue to haue lyke credyt with theise kinde of men. Yt is easie to see that the Papists seekethe our ruyne and destruction, and therefore yt behovethe vs to accompt of our good frindes, to cherishe them, and to increase them by all meanes possible.

I cannot tell what assurance I may give your Lordship of the contynewance of this late Peace, the same beinge coldlie effectuated in all the partes beyond Loyre. The Admirall and his associates in Guien haue comitted manie insolencies. Bordeaux will not receaue Mons^r Biron. The Catholiques haue rased a castle and villadge belonginge to the King of Nav. ; yn Nivernoys, Province, and Dauphiné, actions of hostilitie are yet ministred. Theise matters are now before the King, and the conclusion will appeare shortly. The Prince of Condé is in Rochell, Chastillan in Montpellier, and Thorie in Nismes. We professe here that we wilbe neuters in this quarrell of the Low Contryes ; but the Count Mansfield, with manie other Cap^{tns}, goe shortely to Don John, and yt is said that theire souldiers will not be behinde them. The greatest matter that is in hande here at this presente is to reconcile the Quene of Navarre to her husbände, and indeed yt is of great consequence ; messengers goe dayly betwene them and the resolution wilbe taken shortly. The ambassadors from the Estates of the Low Contryes haue taken theire leaue of the King, but make no haste to depart. I pray God send the Prince of Orenge better frindes in other places then he shall fynde in Fraunce, where (no doubt) he hathe bytter and mightie enemyes. I leaue to trouble your Lordshipe.

TO S^R FRAUNCES KNOWLES.

Yt may please your Honour to be advertised that all thinges contynewe here after the old fashion ; plentie of faire wordes, great and lardge promises, slender performance. Complaints are brought to the King dayly of manie insolencies comytted by the Catholiques against those of the Relidgion. Burdeaux will not admytt Mons^r Biron. The King of Navarr is not obeyed in his gouernment. Actions of hostilytie are dayly practized in this realme. Theise, and many lyke disorders, are now in question ; what redresse will follow

willbe seene shortly. The Kinge professethe great sinceritie, but I cannot assure you that those of the Relidgion beleue him. Yt hathe ben proclaymed here, that no Frenche shall serue in the Low Contryes, of the one or the other side, vppon great penaltyes, and yet manie Cap^{teins} prepare to goe thether verie shortly, and I thinke theire souldiers are gone before them. The Deputyes of the Estates are departed, verie ill satisfied as I heare. Messengers com and goe dayly betwene the King of Navarre and his wife, and great meanes are vsed to reconcile them; the issue is yet vncertaine. Monmorensie hathe ben expected here theis seven or eight daies, but he is not yet come. Yt may please your Honour to accept theise few lynes vntill some better occasion be mynistred of longer lettres, wherein my diligence shall not want, as knowethe the Almightye, &c.

TO M^R EDWARD DIER.

S^r, Yt is so longe sythence I heard from you, that I desire moche to know where you are, and how you doe, as one that desirethe as moche your well doinge as anie frind you have lyvinge. Yt is not for want of good will that I writ not more often, and I know you doe not accompt of theise curiosities. Our frindshipe is too well grounded to be shaken by tryfles, and yet theise necessary helpes are not to be omytted, which serue to good purpose even amongst best assured frindes. Of this one thinge you may be assured, that I will neuer be behinde you in writinge or anie other frindly office. I have no newes for you. All our marshall matters are turned into pastimes and pleasures, and now we behold our neighbours' harmes. And yet I speake only of the partes of Fraunce on thisside Loyr, the peace beinge faintly established in Languedocq, Provence, and Dauphiné. Our Frenche doinges are some what vncertaine, and therefore you must give vs leaue to take one yeare's leasure to assure you what wilbecome of this Peace. I forebeare to write of the estate

of the Low Contryes, because the same is better knowen there then here. Theise few lynes are only to renew acquaintance with you. And so I comytt you (good Mr. Dier) to the mercifull tuicion of the Almightye. From Paris, &c.

TO M^R LEIGHTON.

My good neighbour, When I haue moche matter you shall haue manie lynes; and when I haue no matter, yet you shall haue somewhat to conserue my good frindshipe with youe. Mons^r Segure, one of the house of Perdyllan, and gent. of the King of Navarre's chamber, is departed from hence towards your Court, where I praye you let him know that he receavethe some increase of curtesie at your handes for my sake. He hathe the reputacion to be zelous in relidgion, and honest in all his other dealinges, and I know soche men cannot be vnwelcome vnto you. Yt semethe that the Frenche King hathe power to make warre or peace in his kingdom at his pleasure, and yet either he will not or he cannot obserue his Edicte when he hathe made yt; the warre beinge open in manie partes of this realme, and manie complaints are brought from other places, so as the secret misteries of theise matters (if there be anie) will appeare very shortly. We here pretende to be neuters in the quarell of the Low Contryes, and haue our wordes and promises readie in great plentie to please bothe parties; but I feare our actions wilbe Spanishe, and I pray God ther lyne extende no further. The Spaniard and Italian are arrived at Luenburge in good numbers, and manie French captaines are now vppon their goinge from hence, so as yt may be feared least the resolution of the Estates will breed them a broken pate before their weapon be drawn. This must satisfie you at this tyme; and let me heare from you at your convenient leasure. And thus, &c.

TO M^R WILKES.

S^r, These few wordes shall serue only to renew acquaintance with you, thinkinge the tyme verie longe that anie lettre passed betwene vs. I know yt proceedethe not of want of good will of either parte, and woulde be sory you shoulde accompt of my frindshipe by theise trifles, which shalbe readie for you in greater matters; and yet theise small offices are not to be omitted, wherein I pray you leefe no oportunitie. Your frendes here stand me in great steed, and I cannot thanke you ynoughe for them. Yt were presumption to write vnto you of the matters of the Low Contries, which are better knowen there then here. The newes of this contry are so quiet that you will take no pleasure in them; our only care here now is to reconcile the Queene of Na. to her husband. This shall suffice for this tyme. You shall do me a pleasure to vse me boldly where my frindshipe may stand you in anie steede. God keepe you in healthe. From Paris, the xixth of December, &c.

TO HER MA^{TIE}.

December
1577.

Yt may please your Ma^{ty} to be advertized that, your lettres addressed to the Frenche Kinge beinge deliuered vnto me the xxiiijth of the last, I demaunded audience the next day, which was defferred by occasion that y^e Kinge went the same day to his house of Dolenvill, where he remained vntill the xxvijth, and the xxviiith he was feasted by the House of Guise, and the next morninge I had answer from him that he was so busied otherwise, as he could not give me audience vntill the Sondag followinge. Yt is no marvell thoughe the resolucion be good after so longe deliberacion.

At the tyme appointed I repaired to the Courte, where, after the

deliury of your Highnes' lettres, I declared vnto the King that your Ma^{ty} had commaunded me to give him your hartie thanks for his message, sent by Laubespine, of the gladd tidinges of the Peace lately concluded betwene him and his subiects, and that this frindely office was verie acceptable vnto you, as a thinge accustomed only betwene good and true frendes, whoe doe ympart eache vnto other theire prosperities and adversities, theire pleasures and theire displeasures, theire good happe and misfortunes, to thend that the same beinge made comone vnto them, may breede in their mindes effects of lyke affection. I prayed him to thinke that no Prince or Princes in this worlde did receaue greater contentement of this Peace then your Ma^{ty}, as one that wishethe vnto hym and his estate all good happ and felicitye; that, besides your respect to his party-culer benefyt and comoditie herein, you did confesse that this Peace was profitable to your subiects; that they had tasted of the lycencious lybertye of the Ciuill warres of this contrye, that now they trusted to reape some profit of his hapie quietnes; and therefore as your Ma^{ty} reioyced with hym in the conclusion of this Peace, so you desired nothinge more then the longe contynuanee of the same to his honor, and the profit and comoditie of his realme.

Then I proceeded to my other instructions, signifynge vnto hym that your Ma^{ty} thought yt very strainge that, after so many promisses and so manie assurances, satisfaction was not yet made to the English marchants of the losses and damages sustayned by them, by occasion of the interest made by the yonge Lansacke; that your Highnes coulde not in honor but contynew the counter arrest of the Frenche shippes, stayed at the humble suite of your subiects, vntill full restytucion be made vnto them to theire satisfaction; that yt was to be feared least the contynuans of theise mutuall arests might breake furthe at the last, throughe heat of contencion, to some daungerous inconveniences; that the onlie remedie, in soche lyke accidents, was by good order in the begynninge to prevent the mischief that may ensue; that yt might please his Ma^{ty} to take

order for the release of the Englishe shippes remayneinge yet vnder arrests; that the marchants might be duly satisfied of their losses and dompages accordinge to his promise made in that behalfe; that this good and vpright dealinge would remove all occasions of feare and suspicion, and consequently the trafficke and entercourse of marchandize would be open betwene the subiects of bothe the Realmes to the good lykinge and comfort of your Ma^{ty} and him, and to the great profit and comoditie of the marchants of either part. I told hym that this insolence and outragious behaviour of the yonge Lansacke against your Maiesty's subiects was vntollerable; that they looked to be intreated as good frindes and allyes of this nation; that instead thereof they were violently assailed; that they were caried away prisoners as in triumphe of a just victorye; the principal factors and masters were chayned in galleys; that all were put to ransome; that the shippes laden with salt and other marchandizes were forced to buy their owne goodes. I thought yt not amisse to repeate vnto him the principall circumstances of this facte; that this kinde of proceedinge could not haue ben performed with greater extremitye in tyme of greatest hostilitye; that, besides the losse of the marchants, your Ma^{ty} was greatly touched in honor; and, for the reparacion thereof, did looke that he should extend some kynde of punishment vppon the yonge Lansack, whereby yt might appeare vnto the worlde that his Ma^{ty} did not avowe this facte, and that the same did moche mislyke hym as a thinge tendinge manifestly to the violacion of the good amytie betwene these two Realmes. I concluded that he could not be ignorant of the late conferences betwene his Ambassador and others deputed by your Ma^{ty}, as also betwene his said Ambassador and the Lords of your Maiesty's Priue Counsell, and of the sondry motions which had ben proponed on your behalfe for redresse of the inconveniences lyke to ensue by reason of these mutuall arrests, and that, hereby, yt was easie to see that there wanted no good will in your Ma^{ty} to avoyde all occasions that might breede vnkindnes betwene

you and hym. I prayed his Ma^{ty} to consider better of yt; I tolld hym that there was no remedy for this kind of quarell but in the begynninge; that every new conference provoked new vnkindnes; that delay of tyme was vnprofitable for the subiects of bothe the Realmes; that because the thinge done could not be vndon, which was most to be desired, the fault ought to be repaired with some speedy satisfaction; and that, of my part, I shoulde thinke my selfe very vnhapie if, duringe the tyme of my service here, the good and auntient amitie betwene theise two Crownes should bee disturbed.

The King answered that he thought yt agreable with the good amytie which had contynued so longe tyme betwene your Ma^{ty} and hym, to aduertise you of the Peace concluded betwene hym and his subiects, and therewithall to give your Highnes to vnderstand his earnest desire to keepe peace with all his neighbors and allyes, and especialy with your Ma^{ty}, accomptinge of your ffrindshippe before all others, and woulde not omitt any good office that might nourishe and increase the same; protestinge that he desired nothinge more then to conserve peace with his subiects; that he woulde not haue made yt, if he had not thought to haue kept yt; with manie other wordes to lyke effect.

Touchinge the arrest made by Lansacke, he said that he did greatly mislyke yt even from the begininge; that vppon my first motion made vnto hym thereof at Poitiers, he resorted furthewith to his mother, who was then sicke; and if I knew what he said there to his counsell and to the old Lansack, I would beleue that this fact did moche offend hym; that, if he had not given speedy order, the yonge Lansacke had comitted greater spoiles; that he had given expresse comandement as well for the release of the shippes as for full satisfaction to be made of all other wronges; that if any thing remayned vnperformed, yf I woulde give him a memoriall thereof, he would wryt to Lansacke in soche sorte as all shoulde be amended; that he praide me to write to your Ma^{ty} that the lyke might be don to his subiects; that, touchinge the ponishment of the yonge Lansacke,

manie outrages were comitted duringe theise civill warres which must be forgotten and troden vnderfoote; and therfor yt might suffice that his doinges wer not lyked or avowed. Then I declared vnto hym that I woulde be very sory my lettres shoulde be messengers of so could an answere, touchinge the satisfaction required by the Englishe marchants; that they coulde not hope for redresse of theire wronges at the yonge Lansak's handes; that he was not obedient to comaundement, beinge his[own?] Kinge and master; that, contrary to the same, he had caried two Englishe shippes to his castle of Blay; that he had dischargd the marchantye laden in the said shippes, and did retaine bothe shippes and marchandize; if he had made so lyttle accompt of his obedience towards his Ma^{tie}, he would make lesse accompt to abuse an Englishe marchant; that your Ma^{tie} had resolued, by thadvise of your counsell, not to comytt your subiects to so manifest a perill; and therefore woulde not release the Frenche shippes vntill the Englishe merchants were satisfied accordinge to reason.

Yt were not reasonable (saithe the King,) that the poore Frenche marchants should smart for the follyes of the yonge Lansaque; that he was sufficient to answer all theise demandes; that the Englishe marchants should haue justice against hym; that he shoulde be constrained to yeld to reason, and did thinke that this ordinary course of justice would content your Ma^{tie}.

Yf (quothe I,) this iniury were to be consydered in yt selfe, yt might be said that the same might haue ben endured for a tyme to see what justice woulde be done against the yonge Lansaque. But when this wronge is consydered with former iniustices and delayes of justice, which are infynit and intollerable, the English marchants haue great cause to seeke theire remedy by some other meane. And here I put him in remembrance of the manie complaints made vnto him, as well by me as by my predecessors, of the robberyes and piracies comitted by the Frenche vppon the Englishe, and of the great promisses of order to be given for restitution; and notwith-

standinge that no performance ensewed. That the Captaines and gouernors of townes and provinces were the principall partyes of theise bad dealinges; that they were too mighty for the Englishe marchants; that they had so often sought justice against them in vaine, yea, with the perill of their lyves, as nowe they feare to seeke their remedy by law; that this last fact by the yonge Lansacque in the spoile of the two Englishe shippes, after comaundement receaved from his Ma^{ty} to make full restitution, did plainly shewe that no redresse can be expected in Fraunce by order of law; that we had ben caried away hithervnto with faire wordes, and therefore desired now to see some effects of performance. The King said that his subiects exclaymed also of their side that they had ben spoyled in great number; that they had complained in vaine; that he had sene the bookes; that there must be a generall redresse now that he was in peace at hom and abroad; that he had taken straight order for justice to be ministred to your Maiesty's subiects, and would see yt performed. I answered that, besides that our losses on the seas did greatly exceed theise of the Frenche, yt had ben proved of late before his Ambassadors that cxxviij restitucions had ben made to the Frenche within theise few yeares, and verie few or non at all made vnto vs, to the great dishonor of your Ma^{ty}, and no lesse discontentment of your subiects, and that the noate of theise restitucions was given to L'Aubespain.

The King said he had not yet seene yt, neither soche other thing as he brought with hym (a matter verie vnlykely after eight dayes' leasure), prayinge me as well to give him a note of the demaundes of the Englishe marchaunts, which he would recomend to the yong Lansacque in soche earnest sorte as some good satisfaction shoulde ensewe, as also to wryte to your Maiesty to minister lyke justice to the Frenche shippes arested in England, that they might be lycenced to proceed in their voyage. I told him that L'Aubespain had also the notes of the Englishe demaundes, and besought him to consyder better of his answer, affirminge that the English marchants

woulde not be satisfied onlesse your Ma^{ty} did cause present restitution to be made vnto them of soche French goodes as were now in England. Well, (saithe the King,) I will conferr with my Councell this next morninge, and then I will send some of them vnto you, by whom you shall know my full mynde; prayinge me to wryt to your Ma^{ty} accordinge to soche message as I should then receave from hym.

Forasmuche as the matter of congratulacion appertained only to the King by vertue of your Ma^{ty} lettres addressed vnto hym, the other part of this present negociacion concerninge no other thinge then your Highnes' resolucione touchinge the Frenche shippes arrested in England, wherein your Ma^{ty} had consyderacion of your honor, which you founde to be touched by the insolent behaviour of the yonge Lansacke, I did forbear to aske audience of Queene Mother, doubtinge least she might take yt as a kinde of begginge to procure the confirmacion of your said resolucion; and, therefore, thought good first to see how the King was disposed herein, not doubtinge to come to a seconde awdience before this matter were ended.

I loked when the King woulde peruse your Maiesty's lettres, which had ben reasonable and necessarie; but he did not open them whilst I was with hym, and [it] was easie to see that he was not yet resolved vpon his answer; his resolucion herein, and the delay of my awdience, and theise other newe delayes, proceedinge of no other cause then that he lokethe dayly for answer from the yonge Lansacque. And yt is not to be doubted, but that in this meane tyme diligent inquierie is made what Englishe goodes may be at this present in all parts of Fraunce.

I trusted to heare from the King the next day after my awdience, accordinge to his promise; and, seinge my expectacion frustrat, I sent in the eveninge to Mons^r Bruslert, to pray him to provide me of a pasport, and to tell hym that I loked to haue heard that day from the Kinge. Yn deed (saithe he,) yt was so intended, and I will put the King in remembrance of his promise. The next day I tooke occasion to send vnto hym againe for this pasport; and when the

same was deliuered without mension of anie other matter, my Secretary asked hym yf he had moved the Kinge toucheinge the promise to send vnto mee: He answered that he had moved the King, and that some man should be sent to conferre with mee; but (saithe he,) the truthe ys, that wee woulde be glad to heare from the yonge Lansaque.

The same day the marchants of Deepe came vnto me, to praye me to consyder of some good waye for the release of their shippes; and departed from mee so well satisfied, as they coulde not denie all that was done by your Ma^{ty} to be bothe honorable and reasonable; and did perceiue by them, that they were very sory that the Frenche Ambassador had refused the offers made vnto hym in England. Theise marchants see that the generalyty ys lytle respected in this Courte; that euery man carethe for hymselfe; that the yonge Lansaque will not or ys not hable to satisfie the Englishe marchants; that, first or last, their goodes must make this satisfaction; and, therfor, they followed the matter with soche diligence, that, verie late in the eveninge of the same, Mons^r de Foix was sent vnto me, whom I had never seene before, and therefore begann his acquaintaunce with me with a long and earnest recitall of the great curtesies which he had receaved at your Maiesty's hands in England, and of his readye good will to acknowledge the same towards all the subiects of your Highnes vppon every occasion occurringe. The residue of his speaches tended in substance to theise two points; the first that he was sent by the King to know the somme of my complaints; that, vppon consyderacon of the same, order might be given to the satisfaction of her Ma^{ty}. The second, that by [the] treaty of Bloys yt was not lawfull to make anie arrest in theise lyke cases, vntill after justice denied against the partie offendinge. For answer herevnto, I declared vnto him the maner of the arrests of the one and the other side, with all the circumstances apertaineinge; the resolucione of your Ma^{ty}; my informacione made of the same to the Kinge his master; his promise to consyder of yt with his councell,

and to advertise me of his pleasur ; and concluded that, althoughe this fact beinge consydered only in yt selfe, yt might seme reasonable to haue borne with yt for some shorte tyme, to see what justice woulde haue ensewed ; yet, the same beinge conferred with the iniustices and delayes of justice of former tyme, touchinge other depredacions comitted by the Frenche, and with the infidelytie vsed in this late accident, comaundement given by the King to the yonge Lansacke to release all the English shippes, the message of the elder Lansack sent vnto mee that the same was effectuated, th' affirmation of the Secretary to yonge Lansacque that he was present when these shippes departed, that he made their pasportes, that they were released freely without raunsome, that notwithstandinge all these comaundements and other assurances the yonge Lansack had stayed some of the Englishe shippes, and had vnladen their munition and merchandiz, and bestowed the same in his owne sellers ; I said that that these thinges consydered and conferred together doe not only make the arrests of the Frenche shippes good and lawfull in honour, equitie, and reason, but did also give vs cause to seeke some other meane for our satisfaction, and not to trust to the curtesie of the yonge Lansacque, of whom our Englishe marchants shall never gett anye restytucion by order of law. The conclusion was that he woulde make report hereof vnto the King, and I should haue answer againe shortly.

Danvill hathe advertized the King that he never desired the Marquisat of Saluce ; that he would not comyt so great a fault to capitulat with the King his soueraigne ; that he had accepted the said Marquisat as a free guifte of the King's meere lyberalytye ; that at that tyme he thought yt a fitt place for hym, as well for his owne suertie as to avoyde all occasions of suspicions and jalousie ; that, the Peace beinge now concluded, these consyderacons are now of no force ; that his departure from his gouernment would be slanderous to the howse of Mountmerencie ; that he trustethe to do his Ma^{ty} as good service in that place as anye other, and therefore prayethe to

be contynued in Languedocque. He hathe his forces about hym, and cannot be easily removed ; so as this request is as moche to say as he will remaine there whoe so ever say nay. And indeed yt ys resolved that he shall contynewe in his gouernment, althoughe (no doubt) the Kynge would thinke hym selfe hapie to be served there by some other. Bellegard had layed a plott to kill Danvill, but the matter was discovered, and Belligard is driven to flie to Abignon for his safetie. Danvill is in great perplexitie, beinge mistrusted on either side ; and, to increase his discredyt, havinge comytted the towne of Beaucaire to his trustiest and most faithfull frind, the same dothe now shutt the gates against hym. He hathe of late excused himselfe towards the King, as well of his doinges against Belligard, as of the retaineinge of his forces about hym, and hathe receaved verie good answer. The King hathe writen now latelye verie earnestly to the Admirall to come to the Courte, who excused himselfe vppon the first lettres, but yt ys thought that he wilbe here verie shortely, and that the King will vse all meanes possible to establishe the the King of Navarre in his gouernment.

Montmerancie hathe dissuaded the goinge of the forces from hence to Don John, alleadgeinge that the same will rather hinder then further the service of the King of Spaigne, and will also breede jalousie in the Protestants of this contrey ; wherevppon Puigalliard ys sent withe outward pretence to breake the companies in Champagne, and to take order that the Frenche goe not to the succoure of Don John ; but manie doe beleue that theise outwarde doinges are cleane contrary [to] the inwarde meaneinge ; and this opinion ys the rather receaved, because the Duke of Guise dealethe with the capitaines in those thinges in open assemblies, which some thinke he woulde not doe yf he meant plainlye.

Fearing least your Ma^{ty} will thinke leudnes in mee that you heare no sooner from mee, and seeinge theise men to depend vppon [such] answers as they shall receave from the yonge Lansaue, doubtinge least he will not be hastie to answer in so badd a cause, I have thought yt agreable with my dutie to advertise your Ma^{ty} of so

moche as ys don alreadie; which may serue to give some light to that which ys lykely to followe in the rest; as knowethe the Almightye, whoe allwayes preserue your most excellent Ma^{ty}. From Paris, the [ixth] of December, 1577.

TO THE SECRETARIES.

Yt maie please your Honors to be advertized that the old Norton hathe a servant called John Greene, of xxxv yeares of age or thereabouts, whoe hathe served hym contynually sythence his first cominge out of England. This fellow is returned lately out of England; and, beinge sent hither from Rouen, where his master abidethe, declared to Doctor Wendam, after other longe secret speache, that he had spoken with bothe. And that thone was an officer in my Lorde's howse, thother was a gentleman and was steward of his courts, and now my Lord had made hym a justice of peace; and that they promised all that lay in them. He confessed afterward to my frend, that he had ben in the Northe parts of England. Perchaunce the knowledge of theise two menn might serue to good purpose; and yt is possible that they may be knowen the rather by theise slender tokens. Doctor Windame's servant hathe ben thrise with the Scotishe Ambassadors in one weeke after his conference with his fellowes. A messenger was sent vnto me of purpose, with theise lettres enclosed, referringe the consideracion of the same to your wisdome, wherin I could doe no lesse then to answer with all convenient speede.

Great store of wheate and other provisions are sent to Don John out of Champaine, and other partes, whereof complaint hathe ben made to the Chauncelor by the inhabitants, as a thinge tendinge moche to theire hinderance; who answereth that they must be content, seinge the King hathe so comaunded.

Gassot comethe to Mons' Villeroy, a very pestilent and daungerouse enemy to those of the Relidgion, [and ?] ys dispatched to the King of Spaigne. Mountmorency cam to this towne the 22th of the

last, and the D. of Guise the xxvth; Crevecueny [Crevecuer, y^e?] governour of Picardy, ys also arrived; all the other governors of the severall provinces beinge appointed to be here very shortely.

The xxxth of the last, Copley was at the Court, accompanied with the yonger brother of the two Cottens, sonnes to M^r Cotten of Kent, and with theirre gouernor, named Convert; and yt ys given out, by all the Englishe Papists in this towne, that the said Copley was then created Knight and Baron by the Frenche King, with great thanks for his service to the Kinge of Spaigne, and no lesse comendacion of his Catholic relidgion. All the Englishe Papists in this towne relye vppon him as if he were some great personage; all the counsellis and consultacions are holden at his lodginge, and no doubt [he] is a pestilent enemy to our state, to our estate and contrey. Surely I had good hope of hym vppon his first conference with me, and [he] did then promise to see me againe shortely after; but I heare no more of him.

Nippevill riggethe foure tall shippes to goe to the seas, pretendinge to goe to Perron; but his honest neighbours say plainly that he intendethe to followe his olde craft, and then our poore marchants shall smarte for yt. I will moue the King of yt at my next audience, and in this meane tyme will pray Mons^r de Foix at my next conference to take soche order as the King may be duely [informed] of the true meaneinge of the voyage.

TO THE LORD TREASURER.

My verye good Lord, Mr. Copley sent his servant vnto me the viijth of this present in the morninge with lettres addressed vnto your Lordship, which he prayed me to convey vnto you by my next dispatch, and had lefte them vnsealed to the intente (as he said) I should pervse them if I woulde. I opened the lettres, and havinge pervsed in the presence of the messenger the first side of the leafe, resoluinge with my selfe to take copie of the said lettres, I answerd the messenger that the lettres were longe, and therefore prayed him

to come vnto mee in the eveninge for his answer; at which tyme I deliuered vnto hym the lettres, willinge hym to signifie vnto his master that I woulde not be his messenger in theise case, and that I founde yt straunge that he had omitted in his said lettres to make mention of the value of his Barony, because his frindes in England would accompt lytle of the tytle vnleast some profitt were joyned with yt. By this copie inclosed, your Lordship shall see the folly of this gent. which surely is greater then was lykely to be founde in a man of his judgement and experience. What may be consydered of his doinges herein, or of the Frenche lyberalitie towardes hym, I referre to your Lordship's better judgement; only I will say that, as theise tytles haue [been] folishely craved, so yt maie [be] feared least they haue ben as maliciously graunted. And thus I comytt your good Lordship to the protection of the Almightye. From Paris, the ixth of December, 1577.

TO THE SECRETARYES.

Yt my please your Honors to be advertised that the viijth of this present, the Procureur of Deepe, assisted with two other marchants of the said towne, came vnto me to give me to vnderstand of the King's resolucione to satisfie the Englishe marchants; and that he woulde write his lettres vnto his Ambassador to take present remedie herein; and, because this matter coulde not take his effect of conclusion with[out] some condicions to be agreeede in England, the said Procureur and his associates prayed me to recommend the merchants of Deepe by my lettres, that if anie occasione were ministred to shewe favoure to any of the shippes arrested, the same might be extended rather vnto them then to anie others[in] consideracione of our trafficke with them, and of their good and frindely behaviour towardes all Englishe marchants; requestinge me not to bewray them, that they had made me acquainted with the King's resolucione; and also, if I did graunte them my lettres, that I woulde keepe the same secreat. I told them for manie causes I wished them to be preferred before manie others; and seinge them resolved to come to some reasonable

satisfaction, I promised to recomend them vnto your Honours by theise few lynes, and shall most humbly praie your frindely favour towards them. Yt is given out here that theise menne of Deepe had ben more tendred in this suite, if they had not ben saied to be most part of the Religion. And thus I comit your Honors to the tuicion of the Almightye. From Paris, the ixth of December, 1577.

TO THE SECRETARYES.

Yt may please your Honours to be advertised that the vijth of this present after noone, Mons^r de Foyx came vnto my lodgeinge, not comaunded by the King (as he said), but by his lycence, to consider with me of some good expedient to appease this late qnarell. And yet woulde say nothinge herein that shoulde binde hym, but only by way of frendly conference to vtter his opinion, which he woulde doe frankely and plainely; and, therefore, omyttinge the defence of the doinges of thone and thother parte, wished that our speache might tend only to bringe this contencōn to some good conclusion; which of his part shoulde be observed, prayinge mee to doe the lyke. His comendacion contaygned in substance that satisfaction shoulde be made to the English marchants by the yonge Lansack, or by the King yf the said Lansacke were not hable, of the losses and dommages sustayned by the late arrest made at the Isle of Retz. And because manie thinges might be demaunded which were alreadie restored, other thinges might be valued at an higher price then they were worthe, and doubtes and difficultyes might arrise manie wayes, comission shoulde be given to some counsellor deputed by the King, and to me, to take order herein in equitye and reason. Wherein we shoulde not stande vppon extremitys or varie for tryfles, and vppon anie question arrivinge for vniust valuacione of anie thinge suspected to be taken by the yonge Lansacque, to comitt the same to the othes of two indifferent men; and in this meane tyme, that one should be sent by the King and another by me to Bourdeaux, to se the deliuey of the shippes and goodes remayneinge yet there.

I answered that theise promises of resolucion could not satisfie the Englishe marchants; that this prescribed course was full of delayes, and indeede was no other then a new proces; that by this kinde of proceedinge, the Englishe marchants must seeke their remedie in Fraunce; that all theise difficultyes were easie to be decided in England; that the othes of the partyes were sufficient for the triall of the thinges taken; that if anie excesse were founde in the values, my Lords of the Counsell woulde consyder of yt in justice; that I wished order to be given for the release of the shippes at Bourdeaux; that to send thether one of my servants were to lytle purpose; that I thought the masters and mariners of some of the Englishe barques were yet there; that there could be no want of Englishe witnesses; that the contynuance of theise arrestes in England was greatly to the losse of the Frenche marchants; that they could not be released vntill the Englishe were satisfied; and therefore did trust that speedy order should be taken therein. He vrged me earnestly to sende some mann to Bourdeaux, which I refused as a thinge needelesse. Then he repeated thoffres made by some deputed by her Ma^{ty} in Englande, and would not seeme to allow of them. I asked whie the Frenche Ambassador refused them. He answered that the Ambassadour stode vpon the defence of the arrest made by the yonge Lansacque, and vrged the allowance of the same. I replied that indeed I thought the Frenche Ambassador had no sufficient comission to accept theise offres, which beinge so reasonable and profitable for the Frenche marchant, he would not haue refused if he had ben authorised. He concluded that his comminge vnto me was to show his opinion in theise thinges; that he would acquaint the King with our comunicacōn, and that his good will should neuer be wantinge to remoue all occasions that might disturbe the good amitie betwene theise two realmes. No doubt his arrand was to sounde myne opinion.

Then we came to the consideracion of the former spoiles comitted by the Frenche against the Englishe, wherein they seemed to beleue that my allegations were true, as well of the wronges which

wee had receaved, as of the restitutione which we haue made, promisinge his furtherance for the satisfaction of our marchants accordinge to equitie and reason; but (saiethe he,) you haue forgotten that when I was Ambassador in England, the Englishe had taken of the Frenche more than iiij^x shippes and barques, and when I came to aske restitution I had of my Lord Burghley letters, comissiones, and all that was reasonable to be acquired, but when I came to the Vice-Admirall and other inferiour officers, I lost bothe my charges and my travaile, so as of all theise shippes only two were restored. Manie wordes passed betwene vs touchinge this matter of depredacõs of bothe sides, which were not necessary to be rehearsed. I concluded that yt was not ynoughe that satisfaction were made to our marchants for the tyme past, vnleast yt be also provided that they may be better intreated here after; and therefore declared vnto hym, that when the King was at Poitiers I enformed his Ma^{ty} of the arrogant and threatninge speeches vsed by one Nipvill against those of our nacion, and of the great and outragious wronges which he had done them already, as lykewise of his intencõn to goe shortely after to the seas, and therefore besought the King to take order for his good behavioure; that now I was credyibly advertised that he intended to take the seas very shortely with three or foure talle shippes, with outward pretence to goe to Perrone, but indeed to robb and spoyle, as his owne neighbors reported of hym; whereof I prayed him to enforme the King, that order might be given for the suertie of the Englishe marchants. Mons^r de Foix accepted this chardge very willingly, sainge that theise lyke disorders were to be ymputed to the gouernours, whoe by the lawes of the realme ought to take suretyes of all soche as went to the seas for their good behavioure duringe their absence. And thus, etc. Paris, 9th of December, 1577.

Postscript.—The marchants of Deepe ar dispatched from hence towards England, to take order for the satisfaction of the Englishe marchants.

MONEY defrayed by S^r AMYCE POWLET knight, Ambassador Resident for her Ma^{ty} in Fraunce, as well in PROCURING INTELLIGENCES, as otherwise for her MAJESTY'S SERVICE, from the last of May, 1577, to the last of September in the said yeare:—

June.

First for the expenses of John Doreye *8 6 7 6 32*

Julye.

for xv dayes, sent thither for the matters of *N X 1**M 2 1 6 0 9 . 5 11* *iiij^{li} iiij^s x^d*Item for the expences of John Tupper, *5 0 7 32* forxviij dayes sent thither for the same purpose *vij^{li}*Item given in reward for intelligences - *ix^d*Item for the necessarye expences of my servants attendinge at the Courte - *viiij^{li}*Some of the expences of the said two monethes - *xxviij^{li} iii^s x^d*

August.

First for *m. r. 24. 5 11* by expresse comaundement

September.

ii 2 0 2 8 7 *x^{li}*Item for the expences of John Tupper *7 11 5 0 32*

for xv dayes, sent thither by expresse comaundement

ii 2 0 2 8 7 *x^{li} v^s viii^d*Item given in reward for intelligences - *xv^{li}*Item for the copies of sondry writings - *iiij^{li}*Summ of the expences of the said two monethes - *xxxviij^{li} v^s viij^d*Summa totalis - *lxiij^{li} x^s vi^d*Item deliuered to M^r William Wadoe, and dispursed by hym by occasion of some service comitted to hym by M^r Secretarye Walsingham - *xix^{li}*And so suma totalis - *lxxxij^{li} x^s vj^d*

TO M^R WILSON.

I am right gladd that yt hathe pleased her Ma^{ty} to mak choise of your Honor to serue her in the rome of Secretary, wherein her wisdom and your dutifull service do so concurr as shalbe no doubt to the comforte and benefitt of the whole state. Yt ys well when well doyinge ys well rewarded, and God graunte you to goe forward from well to better, vntill your just deserts shall make you worthie of the highest rewardes ! And now, as by reason of your chardge I shall trouble you more then manie others, so yt may please [you] that I may be more beholdinge vnto you then some others, whereof I haue great hope for the good triall which I haue had already of your good affection towardes me, and will not doubt the countynuance thereof, because, God willinge, I will not deserue the contrarye. Your Honor giueth me thanks, whereas indeede the same are due vnto you by mee for your good acceptacion of M^r Awdley Dannet, wherein I thinke my selfe muche beholdinge vnto you, and no lesse hapie that he shall depart from me to a place of so good preferrment, wherof he ys worthie for manie good parts that are in hym, as I trust you shall finde to your good contentacion. I had resolved to sende hym vnto you, assone as it shoulde please you to require hym, but new occasions breede new resolucions, and yt may please you to beare with yt. M^r Jacomo, the next day after the receipt of your Honor's lettres, dischargd hym selfe of her Maiesty's service here vnder me, not for anie mislyke betwen hym and me, which I know he will testifie befor all men, but for an opinion conceaved that her Highenes will do nothings for hym. This matter hathe troubled me, aswell for the soudaines thereof, as for the necessitie of my service here, and therefore, beinge vterly [un]provided of a fitt man to deale in my busines abroade, yt may please your Honor to be content that M^r Dannet remaine here with me two or three monethes, trustinge in this tyme to fashion my sonne and another yonge man,

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whoe now servethe me, so as they shalbe sufficient to serue my turne, wherein I deale the more bouldly with you, because yt pleaseth you to referr the tyme of his returne to my comodytie.

But yf your present service shall require his speedy repaire vnto you, I will not faill to send hym without delaie, as well to keepe my credyt with you, as for the great desire I haue to see hym bestowed to his aduancement. Thus your Honor seethe how boldely I deale with you, and yet surely I shalbe bolder with you then this comethe to, manie tymes before my returne out of this contrye. Yf M^r Walsingham be not at the Courte, yt may please your Honor to say nothinge of this matter touchinge M^r Jacomo vntil you haue spoken with M^r Walsingham, vnto whom I haue written herein to more lengthe. And thus, referringe you for some other thinges to my other lettres sent herewithall, I comitt your Honor to the tuicion of the Almightye. From Paris, the ixth of December, 1577.

Postscript.—The gentleman whom you once recomended vnto me by your lettres, and dothe seeme to depende moche vppon your good frendship, is so ymportunat as all the shiftes and devises I cann ymmagine will not suffice to satisfie hym; and yet this tyme, consyderinge the state of the Low Contryes, and on whom he dothe relye here, dothe minister great store of reasonable excuses. Yt may please your Honor to assist me with your good advise. I am moche deceaved if I know not the man verie well.

TO M^R WALSINGHAM.

Yt maie please your Honor to be advertised that the matter touchinge Mathew Field and others of London, and recomended vnto me by your Honor, may be prosecuted two wayes, thone against those which comitted the piracie, and thother against the captaine of Newhaven, whom the Englishe marchants avowe to haue set

further the shippes which committed the said piracie. The first are perchaunce beggars, and when you haue pursued them with great charges, you shall haue no other thinge then their lyfes. The other course ys more assured yf yt may be maintayned, wherein the complainants must looke to them selves and see that their profes be sufficient, and then there ys no doubt but that they may haue justice. In which behalfe, surely I must confesse that those which are deputed judges in these causes offer great expedyction of justice, and with all possible favoure, wherein they promise to deale vprightly without respect of captaine, gouernour, or any other regarde whatsoever, yf the complainants wilbe content to bestow soche reasonable charges as the ordynary course of law dothe require. When justice is offered in this rounde sorte, I do not see how we can justly complaine, vntill we haue made profe what effects will follow of their promises. The followinge of this cause was given over by John Tupper, because, beinge in Brittanie, he was required 30 crownes for the copies of examynacions, which he refused for the price, aswell for that he had no comission to deale so lyberally of other mennes purses, as that he doubted least, when he had paid this money, nothinge would be founde in the examynacions that might steed. The Deputies for the Kinge mislyke that the marchants will require redresse herein by way of reprisall, vntill vpon new profes justice be denied vnto them here. My best furtherance in the matter shall not want, yf the marchants will consyder what course may be fittest for them to take, and [it] shalbe fitt for them to sende some man of discrecion that may follow the cause for the servinge of proces, and soche other necessary purposes. As &c. From Paris, the iiijth of December, 1577.

TO THE LORD TREASORER.

My verie good Lord,—The lettres to her Ma^{ty} of my late negociation with the Kinge shall, I trust, suffice to excuse me, althoughe I do

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not trouble your Lordship at this present with manie wordes, havinge indeed no other matter worthie of the writinge at this tyme then soche as ys conteyned in my said lettres to her Highnes, which I know wilbe ymparted vnto your Lordshipe.

I haue great cause to thinke that they will come to some reasonable resolucions touchinge our Englishe marchants, which is defferred vpon hope to heare shortelie from the yonge Lansacque. Yt ys good dealing with theise men vpon some advantage; and I praie God her Ma^{tie} may longe keepe her selfe out of their daunger. And the readie waie to avoide harme hereafter ys to keepe our advantage whilst wee haue yt, and God forbidd that our Queene and State should be driven to trust to their curtesie!

Our chieffest care here at theise presente is to satisfie the King of Navarre, the Prince of Condé, and Danvile, greate complaintes cominge dayelie from them, and great store of faire wordes are returned againe vnto them. And what deedes will followe will appeare vpon the cominge hyther of the Gouvernours of the seuerall Provinces, whereof some are come already, and the others are expected verie shortelie. And thus, restinge most assuredlie at your Lordshipes comaundement, and recomendinge my service here and my discharge from hence to your Lordshipes good favour, I comitt your Lordshipe to the mercifull tuicione of the Almightye. From Paris, the iiijth of December, 1577.

TO MY LORD OF WARRWICKE.

My verie good Lord,—I trust your Lordshipe will hold theise few lynes excused, which shoulde be longer yf anie good matter were ministred worthie of your Lordshipe. All thinges [are] restinge in quiet state on this side the ryver of Loyre, and some hope [is] conceaved y^t the lyke will follow in Guienne, Languedock, and those partes where Danvill is restored to his gouernment, and the force vsed by hym in

the expulsion of Bellgard is interpreted to the best. The Admirall is required to repaire to the Courte, and yt ys thought he will come ; and then the King of Navarre shalbe obeyed in his gouvernement. All the gouernors of the seuerall provinces are appointed to be here verie shortelie, and manie of them are come alreadie, and then the secret misteries of theise thinges will appeare. The Counte Charles Mansfield and diuers other gentlemen of this Court are gone to Don John, and yt is to be doubted but that they wilbe followed by Frenche souldiers. I trust the Frenche will yield to some reasonable satisfaction for the outrage done to the Englishe marchants by the yonge Lansacque, wherein no resolucion is taken as yet. And thus restinge at your comaundement, I comitt &c. The iiijth of December, 1577.

TO MY LORD OF LEICESTER.

My verie good Lord,—I haue written to her Ma^{ty} at good lengthe aswell of my late negociacion with the Kinge, as also of my conference with Mons^r de Foix, and do thinke that the French shippes wilbe redemed verie shortely with reasonable satisfaction of the English marchants, which I ymput rather to the necessitie of the tyme, then of anie good inclynacion of the French to keepe amitie with us. They are wise, and can dissemble theire affections for theire advantage, and yet I know yt grevethe them to be comaunded (as I take yt) after this sorte. I trust her Ma^{ty} will so stand vppon her garde as there will shall wante power and habilitie to bringe furthe anie daungerous effect. Danvill contynueth in his gouernment, and Bellgard is forced to retire to Avignon. Mountmorencie ys in this towne, with diuerse other gouernors of the seuerall provinces, and the rest wilbe here verie shortely. I knowe my lettres to her Ma^{ty} wilbe ymparted to your Lordshipe, and therefore I will not trouble you [with] anie longer discourse, comittinge your good Lordship to the, &c.

TO THE SECRETARIES.

Yt maie please your Honors to be aduertized that, findinge an Englishe marchant readie to departe towardes London and promisinge to deliuere my lettres trustly to my servante abidinge there, I thought good to trouble you with theise few lynes written in hast, and by the same to give you to vnderstand of the bruits of this Courte, wher yt is given out that her Ma^{ty} lendethe to the States 80000 florence; that foure companies sent by the Prince of Orange to Amstredam are defeated by those of the towne; that six companies of Spaniardes haue ben overthrown of late besides Namure; that three thousand Spaniardes are cominge shortelye out of Italie, besides those which passed out latelie; that the Duke of Savoy permittethe them to passe thorowe Piedmount, notwithstandinge the restraint of all others by occasion of the plague in Millaine and Lumbardie; that, notwithstandinge all faire promises, the Frenche are gone to Don John in greate numbers, and some say that he ys to receave greater ayede from hence verie shortely. M^r Waade writethe vnto me from Geneva that yt is reported there by certaine Italians com lately out of Italie, that the King of Spaigne comethe shortely to Millaine, where he will assemble a great counsell to deliberat of great thinges. Yt is also written to me by another from the same place that La Fyn hathe ben of late at Rome and ys returned by Genes, and from thence comethe shortelye to this Courte, where he lookethe to be well receaued for the good service he hathe don in this jorney.

The jalousie and distrusts of this Courte are nothinge diminished. Rochell hathe badd neighbours on everie side. Marans is not rased as was promised. The Admirall ys not yet come to the Courte, and some doubt if he will come or no. I leaue the consideracion of Danvill to your better judgement. So, as men thinke that our reso-

lucions here depend altogether vppon the good or bad successe of the Spaniards in the Low Contries.

Whereas yt hathe pleased you, M^r Walsingham, to signifie vnto me in the beginninge of this sommer that her Ma^{ty} was contented to bestow one c. crownes by the yeare vppon the partie mensioned in this copie enclosed, I find that her lettres come so slowlie and seldome vnto me for want of convenient messengers that I doubt if I may intertaine hym, or if his service can deserve hir Maiesty's lyberalytie, which beinge founde to be fruitlesse, I might seme to be worthie of some parte of the fault. And therefore yt maie please your Honors to giue me your direction herein, havinge now lately sent vnto hym fortie crownes for the tyme past.

No other then myselfe ys acquainted with the matter advertized by George Poulet, and therefore yt maie please your Honors to give order that the same maie not be ymparted to anie y^t that shall come from me. And thus I comitt your Honors to the mercifull tuicione of the Almightye. From Paris, the 22th of December, 1577.

Postscript.—My contrymen in England should doe God and their contreye good service if either they woulde provide scolemasters for their children at home, or else woulde take better order for their educacion here, where they are infected with all sortes [of] pollucions, bothe ghostly and bodylie, and finde manie willinge scolemasters to teache theme to be badd subiects.

Reuerend Father and my most deare Friende,—Yt is now longe since I either saluted you or heard from you, but I haue not forgotten you, neither mynde to doe so longe as I liue, wishinge yt may be my chaunce to see you once at home ere I dye. I am requested by my good ffrend M^r Doctor Wendam to direct my lettres vnto you, so as, the same beinge opened, you may paie the post, and

receae your money againe from hym. I will vse no more wordes with you at this tyme, but if I be hable to doe you pleasure here you maie comaunde me if you list, desiringe of you againe to be remembred in your praiers. Fare you hartely well. From London, the 24th of September, 1577.

Your assured frind,

ROBT. HARE.

TO MR SECRETARIE WILSON.

Yt maie please your Honor to haue this opinion of me, that I make greater accompte of your contentacione then of my privat comoditie, and therefore will not faile to dispatche M^r Dannel from hence in convenient tyme to be with you in England before new yeares day; trustinge that this shorte tyme of his absence from you cannot be greatelie to your hinderance, and dare assure you that his faithfull diligence will soone recompence a greater default then this comethe vnto. I thanke your Honor most humbly for your most frindly and comforteable lettres of the xth of this presente, and must confesse that the same would aske to be answered at greater lengthe, which is only differred vntill the cominge of your servante, by whom I trust to advertize you of some matterr that will lyke you; and vppon this hope, and this only occasion, I stay him theise few dayes. Your sonne shalbe hartelie welcome. And thus restinge at your comaundement I committ your Honor to the tuicione of the Almightye. From Paris, the xvijth of December, 1592.

TO M^r SECRETARY WALSINGHAME.

Right Honorable, Althoughe I haue no new thinge worthie of advertisement, yet I thinke yt verie reasonable that this bearer M^r Jacomo, repayringe into England, should be considered for his charges in this journey. Wherin I referr hym to your good favoure, which may extend to allow hym as deepelye for theise few

lynes, as if he had a greater pacquett. I will not faile to dispatche Dannett from hence in convenient tyme to be with you in England three or foure dayes before new year's daye, forbearinge to send hym at this present only vppon good hope and large promises to learne some matter worthie of you, and was the more sorye to stay hym because yt may seeme by M^r Wilsones lettres that yt behovethe hym to be supplied in the rome promised to Dannet without delaye. I am faire promised in another matter, wherein I haue ben longe delayed to my great mislykinge, and haue the lesse hope that anie good will ensue, referringe the reporte of so moche as hathe ben alreadie signified vnto me to this said bearrer. These generall termes are more daungerous then profitable, I have now at the last even this present day spoken with the partie, and am promised a speedie answer. This bearer had put a peece of seelke to workinge for you, as the only thinge that seemed for your purpose, and was promised assuredly the same shoulde be made readie before the xvijth of this present; whereof beinge disappointed, after the Frenche maner, I was forced to seeke another marchant, and will not faile to sende yt to your Honor by the next messenger, which shalbe in tyme convenient to serue your turne against newe year's day. As knowethe the Almightye. From Paris, the xvijth of December, 1577.

TO M^R WALSINGHAM.

Yt may please your Honor to be advertized, that all thinges rest here in good quiet in outward apparance, the Kinge refusinge nothinge that may be reasonably desired for the maintenance of his Edict, and hathe dispatched his lettres for the dissolvinge of the brotherhoods and other lygues, and also taken order that the Marshall [shall] resorte to the seuerall lymytts for the better observacione of the Peace, th'Admirall beinge required in soche earnest maner to leaue his gouvernement in Guien, as yt ys thought he will not dare to

refuse the Kinges comaundement; and yt ys without doubte that at this presente the King desirethe nothings more then to keepe peace, beinge comanded by his pleasure and necessitie, and some of good iudgement are constantly perswaded that he ys no lesse resolved to roote out religion in his domyniones at his first oportunitie. Yt ys said that the Duke of Mayne shalbe Admirall, and ys credyibly reported that he had ones accepted the gouernement of Normandy, wherein he was diswaded by the Dutches of Nemours, doubtinge to offend Matignon, Mylleroy, and Carronges, which now possesse that gouernement. This alteracion of gouernement hathe growen vpon this occation, that the mariadge beinge now concluded, not without great difficulty, betwen S^t Lut and Madamoysels de Brisacque, the King was resolved to make S^t Lut Grand Esquier; and to preferr Mons^r Charnye, now in possession of that office, and lieutenant of Bourgoundy, to the gouernement of Burgondy, in the place of the Duke of Mayne. The neighbourhood of this gentleman is not moche to be desired; and, althoughe this matter be differred, yt is not taken away, and ys lykely to be effectuated some other tyme. The credyt of the House of Guise in this Court increaseth daylie. Wherein this only thinge dothe hinder them, that the King is possessed with certaine gentlemen of no great callinge, who make hym a straunger to all his nobilitie.

I cannot tell how Copley cann affyrme so boldly that he is no practizer against his Prince and State, when yt is most certaine that he hathe often conference with the Chauncelor, that he is familiar with that honest man Julio Bussigny, and hathe said of late that he hathe proponid manie thinges to the Frenche Kinge which he lyketh verie well, but ys answered that this tyme ys not fitt for yt.

Andrew Birago, nephew to the Chauncelor, hathe said of late that some Englishe men in this towne haue given to vnderstand to the Chauncelor, that the enterprise of England is of no great difficultie, for manie cawses. The first is that her Maiesty's revenue ys one million only, which she spendeth yearly, and therefore ys not

riche; the second, that the people hathe not ben trayned vpp in warre; the third, that there are only two fortes within the realme, and therefore the landinge in all places without perille; the fourthe, that the Queene cannot provide for warre vppon the sodaine in money or any other waie, because she can doe nothinge without the Estates; the fifte and last, that some had ben ponished of late in Englande for matter of Relidgion, which had incensed not only the Papistes, but also the Protestantes; that her Ma^{tie} would be forsaken of her subiectes, if she were assailed. Theis triflinge tales, conferred with other lyke reportes, which (no doubte) are in great number at this present, doe serue to proue that there is a generall opinion conceaved of the invasion of England.

My ffrind tellethe me that there is an intende to sett shippes to the seas very shortely, whereof six are to be prepared by Story, five by La Broche, three by Landereau, two by Charleboyes, six by Lansacque, two by Bacquevill, two by Gourdon, and two by Gourgnès; and that theis men haue seuerall pretences in outward apparraunce, but indeede one rendez-vous, which is suspected to be in Ireland; and that the Earle of Westmorland is of this matche, whoe hathe ben lately in this towne, as he hathe ben informed. This generall preparacion hathe not ben confirmed vnto me by any other, and therefore I may not reporte yt for matter of truthe, trustinge to learne the certaintie before my next dispatche. This man offers all the seruice possible, and (no doubt) will doe all that he canne.

The authore of this bill inclosed tellethe me that the Kinge of Spaigne hathe offered to the yonge Lansacque 40,000 frauncs, and to three other gentlemen of this contrey 60,000 francs to be devided betwen them, to do some enterprize for him on the seas.

It is easie to see that the greatest Princes and Potentates of Europe do envie the quietnes and tranquillitie of the estate of Englande, and haue conspired the vtter ruine and destruction of the same, which beinge forseene, I doubte not but that her Maiesty doethe provide all convenient remedies; and althoughe (thankes be

to God !) the same are to be founde in good number, yet non semethe more certaine then the contynuanee of the troubles in the Low Contreyes, or the appeasinge of the same with good condicions ; and when that helpe shalbe taken away from vs, to be assured of good frendes abroad, which, vppon any attempte to be made against vs, will take occasion to kep our neighbours occupied in their owne contrey. Leavinge theis matters to your better consideracion, and referringe some other to the reporte of this bearer, I committ your Honor to the tuicion of the Almightye. From Paris, the xxvth of December, 1577.

TO M^R WALSINGHAM.

Whereas yt hathe pleased your Honor to referre to my consideration to deliuer to A.B. iij^e crownes, or so moche thereof as I thought good, I haue ben so bolde to defray the whole some, which hathe ben receaued very thankfully, and do thinke yt very well bestowed. I haue receaved theis iij^e crownes, as also other xl crownes, mensioned in my last lettres to haue ben paid to C.D., vppon the bill which I receaved from Benedict Spinola, by your procurement, and haue given my acquittance for the said money, which it may please your Honor to cause to be dischargd. And thus, etc. From Paris, the xxvth of December, 1577.

TO THE EARLE OF LEICESTER.

My very good Lord, I doubt least your Lordshippe will finde yt strainge that this bearer, Mr. Dannet, havinge serued so longe vnder me in the place of my secretary, is now departed from me. And therefore, for your better satisfaction, to bothe our credytt, I haue thought good to signifie vnto your Lordship that his service hathe ben so agreable vnto me, for his honestie, diligence, and faithfulness,

as I haue ben hartilie sory to spare him ; and yet, beinge advertised that his frendes in England had procured a place of preferrment for him vnder Mr. Wilson, I haue ben content to forget my selfe and my privat comoditie for his aduancement, havinge (indeede) deserved at my handes, not only to wishe hym well, but also to doe hym good if I were hable. Althoughe I doe not doubt but his honest desertes will procure hym favoure with Mr. Wilson, yet the same wilbe greatly furthered if yt shall please your Lordship to giue hym your good countenance, and to spare hym your good wordes towards Mr. Wilson, whereof I shall most humbly pray your good Lordship.

Yt may please your Lordship to holde me excused, althoughe I put you in remembrance of my former suite, to moue her Ma^{ty} to enter into consideracion of my successor, wherin I haue my chiefest hope in your Lordship's favoure, and am the more ymportunat herein, because I am not ignorant that this deliberacion doethe comonly spende the better parte of one yeare.

The lyke (?) state of thinges at home, and the malicious envie of our neighbours abroad, doe threaten ymynent perill to our state and contrey ; and surely yt is not for nothings, and semethe worthie to be noted that this opinion of our ruine ys receaved of the most parte of men as a matter of truthe, which they perswade them selfs to be effectuated very shortely. Wee are so well warned as we cannot be harmed, vnleast wee wylbe necligent to vse soche remedyes as God providethe for vs, of which non semethe to be [more] assured then to procure good frindes abroad, which, if anie thinge be attempted against vs, will take occasion to keepe our enemies ocupied in their owne contreys.

The sufficiencie of this bearer may suffice to excuse the shortnes of theise lettres, havinge comitted manie thinges to his reporte, whom it may please your Lordship to credyt ; and thus restinge at your Lordship's comaundement, I comitt you to the tuicione of the Almighty. From Paris, the xxvth of December, 1577.

TO M^R WILSON.

Although he this bearer, your servant Mr. Dannet, hath ben recommended vnto your Honor by others that haue already signified my opinion of hym, yet I woulde not faile to accompanie hym with theis few lynes, which shall serue only to assure you of his honestie, dylligence, faithfullnes and soundnes in Relidgion, and to pray you to consider and to esteeme of hym as he shall deserue, which I know wilbe to his credyt and your satisfaction. And lyke as I am right glad that he ys so hapie to be placed with you, so I thinke my selfe vnhapie in the losse of his service here, which hath ben so agreable to me as, if I did not loue hym very well, I woulde [yet] haue preferred his aduancement by your seruice before my comoditie yn a matter of this ymportance. God blesse your labour and counsell, to which purpose good and faithfull ministers are greatly necessary. And now I thanke your Honour ones againe for your lettres of the xth of this presente, and am right glad to vnderstand by the same, that my contrey beginethe to awake out of that heauie sleepe of securitie, as may appeare by your late good and sounde resolucions mensioned in your lettres, wherein your diligence to defend (which I take to be the only marke her Ma^{ty} shootethe at) cannot be comparable to the readines of others to anoy; and reason dothe allow this to be true, because our corrupte nature ys more diligent in vice then in vertue. I am glad to heare that thaduertisment which you receaved lately from me, hath serued to good purpose; wherein this bearer, your servant, deservethe more then comendacions, by whose diligent and faithfull travail the same came into [my] handes. I wish yt to be considered towards hym, and will not fail put your Honor in remembrance of yt, when anie occasion shalbe mynistred to doe hym a good torne. The sufficiencie of this bearer, and his good experience of the courte and contrey here, shall excuse the shorte-

nes of theis lettres. And so, restinge at your comaundement, etc.,
From [Paris] the xxvth of December, 1577.

TO TH'ERLE OF WARWICKE.

My very good Lord, Althoughe I doubt not but that your Lord-
ship ys so well affected to this bearer, Mr. Dannel, as he hathe no
neede of my recomendacions; yet, if yt shall please your Lordship
to add somewhat of your fauour towards hym at this my request,
I shall take yt as a good turne done to my selfe, havinge served her
Ma^{ty} here, vnder mee, so painfully, diligently, and faithefully, as I
will acknowledge my selfe beholdinge vnto hym as longe as I liue;
and indeed am hartilie sory for his departure from me, althoughe I
woulde not deale so vngratefully with hym to hynder his preferment
to a place procured for hym by his good frendes in Englande. He
hathe deserued well of me for his good partes. but especially for his
good will, which I haue founde to be vnfained, so as he hathe ben
gladd at his harte when occasion hathe serued hym to doe any thinge
that might lyke me. M^r Wilson hathe ben contente [to take] hym
of mee; and, therefore, I haue good hope that he will stand his good
master and frend, which he will doe the rather if yt shall please your
Lordship to let hym know that you wishe well to this gentleman.
I will not trouble your Lordship with the state of thinges here,
referringe the same to the sufficiencie of this bearer, whoe will
enforme you of some particularityes. And thus, &c., the xxvth of
December, 1577.

December
25, 1577.

TO MR TREASORER.

Right Honorable, I thanke your Honor most humbly for your
lettres of the fourthe of this presente, and am very glad to heare of
your good and sounde resolucions, which may perchaunce breake

the devise contriued against vs. I trust her Ma^{ty} doeth not doubt but that the plott is laid for her ruine, the execucion whereof hathe ben deferred hitherto by the mercifull goodnes of the Almightye, whoe dothe not only forwarne vs of our mischiefes at hand, but alsoe dothe provide vs of lawfull remedies, if we be so hapie to take them when they are proffered. I will not trouble your Honor with the discourse of the estate of thinges here, referringe the same to the reporte of this bearer, Mr. Dannett, whoe hathe serued me here in the place of secretary, and ys now to serue Mr. Wilson, wherein I haue ben contente to further his preferment, althoughe to my great grieve, in respect of my service here. This man ys honest and sounde in relidgion, and therefore I shall pray your fauour towards hym. I must tell your Honor this one thinge, that there ys no doubte of the contynuanee of peace here, vntill the successe of the Low Contryes shall informe vs what may be fitt for vs; and in this meane tyme wee make great demonstracions to despise [desire ?] nothinge more then the conservacion of the last Edicte. And thus I comitt your Honor, &c. December 25, 1577.

TO TH'ERLE OF SUSSEX.

My very good Lord, Beinge vnhabable to acknowledge my dutifull mynde towards your Lordship by better offices, I am willinge to trouble you with some few lynes, therby to intertaine your Lordship's good opinion of me; but this quiet tyme yeldeth so little matter worthy of aduertisement, as I must pray your Lordship to accept my poore good will in steed of longer lettres.

The troubles of the Low Contryes will keepe vs in peace here, and the good or bad successe of the doinges there will resolute vs of our further proceedings. In this meane tyme the King pretendeth to desire nothinge more then the observacion of this Edicte; giveth comaundement to the Admirall to come out of

Gwyen; taketh order for the disolucion of the brotherhoods and other associacions of the Papists, and in many other thinges is no nigarde of faire promises. The effects do not yet appeare, and yt is daungerous in Fraunce to geue a resolute opinion vpon any wordes, or other outward shewes whatsoever. Montmorancy ys returned to his howse of Chantilla, and with hym Mons^r Cayra. The Howse of Guise [is] followinge the Courte, and I thinke will not leaue yt vntill they be ymployed by hoke or croke, &c.

TO MY LORD TREASORER.

My very good Lord, I doubt least your Lordship will fynde yt straunge that this berer, Mr. Dannet, havinge served so longe vnder me, in the place of my secretary, ys now departed from me; and therfor, for your better satisfaction, to bothe our credyts, I haue thought good to signifie vnto your Lordship that his service hathe ben so agreable vnto me, for his honestie, diligence, and faithfullnes, as I haue ben hartely sory to spare hym. And yet beinge aduertized that his frindes in England procured a place of preferment for hym vnder M^r Wilson, I haue ben content to forget my selfe and my privat comoditie for his aduauncement, havinge indeede deserved at my handes not only to wish hym well, but also to doe hym good if I wer able. I doubt not but your Lordship ys so well affected tot his said bearer, as he hathe no neede of my comendacions; and yet if yt shall please your Lordship to add somewhat to your favoure towardes hym at this my request, I shall take yt as a good turne don to my selfe. Beinge aduertised by my servant of your Lordship's seeknes, and therefore vncertaine of your returne to the Court, I haue thought good to trouble your Lordship with this copie inclosed of my lettres to the Secretaries, referringe some other thinges to the report of this bearer, whom yt may please your Lordship to credyt. This badd tyme hathe great need of your Lordship's travaile in body and

mynde, besechinge God to restore your healthe to the furtherance of her Maiesty's service, and to your comfort and quietnes. &c.

TO MR WALSINGHAM.

December
25, 1577.

Yt may please your Honor to receaue by this bearer, M^r Dannet, a peece of silke contayneinge xx yeards, being hartily sorry that I can provide no better stuffe for you, wherin I trust M^r Jacomo hathe excused towardes you already, who hathe sought all the best shoppes in this towne, and coulde fynd no new thinges worthie of you. The plague in Italie, and the disorder of the money here, are thought to be the true causes that nothinge comethe hither out of thes parts. The Queen and ladyes here, for want of better stuffe, make all there new garments of colored satten with goulde and siluer. Yt may please your Honor that I may crave this favour of you, as of one in whom I repose my selfe aboue all others, that when either by ignorance or by necessitie I shall send any thinge to her Ma^{ty} that seemeth vnfitt for her, yt may please you to consider so well of mee, to take order that yt may not be deliuered, thinkinge yt farr better to send nothinge then to send any thinge vnmeet for her Highnes; and shall most humbly pray you to extend this favoure towardes me touching a tryfle which I send by this bearer, referringe the deliury of the same to your frindly consideracion. I am willinge to send somewhat to her Ma^{ty}; and therfore haue resolved vpon this thinge, because I can fynde no silke of any new fashion. The devise of this toy semeth to be pretty, which this said berer will expounde vnto you. Yf this bill inclosed shall not be sufficient for your discharge for the iij^xl crownes, vpon aduertisment from you I will send soche other discharge as shall please you to comaunde.

Yt hathe pleased your Honor to be the first founder of the placinge of this bearer, M^r Dannet, with M^r Wilson. I will not trouble you with any further recomendacions in his behalfe, only I will say that

he ys worthie of your favoure. Yf the aduertisement sent by George Powlet deserveth any thanks, I pray you let them be given to this berer, by whose faithfullnes and dyligence the same came into my handes.

And now your Honor must giue me leaue to put you in remembrance of my late sewte, wherein I shall not be quiet vntill I shall heare the name of my successor. My two yeares beginne to expire, and this terme may be sufficient for my poore estate, the better parte of my livinge beinge out of my handes, as you know. I trust I need not to tell you that I remayne wholly at your comaundment. And thus, &c.

TO MY LORD KEEPER.

My verie good Lord, Havinge so convenient a messenger as this bearer ys, M^r Dannel, I woulde not fayle to acknowledge my dutifull good will towardes your Lordship by theis few lynes; although in deede this quiet tyme dothe yelde no matter worthie of aduertisement. We are contented here to harken to our neighbour's harmes, and to keepe our selues in store for our better aduauntage, and I am moch deceiued if wee lefe any good oportunitie that shalbe proffered. Our actions are chaunged by necessitie, but our will remayneth firme and constant, and will appeare in tyme convenient. But the hartes of Princes are in the hands of God, and He disposethe of them at his good pleasure, and He only knoweth what wilbecome of this Peace. Our Estat & contrey is threatned of every side, and her Ma^{ty} cannot be ignorant of the malicious practises of her disemblinge neighbours. Our harme comethe by leasure, and wilbe the heavier if yt be not avoyded. God graunt her Ma^{ty} to be rightly councelled, and to execut speedily her good resolucions! I feare we shall not be so diligent to provide for our defence, as our enemyes wilbe ready to annoy vs. I leaue theis matter to your better consideracion. I will

not trouble your Lordship with the discourse of the state of thinges here, which I referr to the report of this bearer. And &c.

TO M^R LEIGHTON.

My good neighbour, I thanke you most hartely for your frindly lettres of the xxviiijth of the last sent by my servant Chechester, which are more then sufficient to confirme me in my opinion of your good affection towards mee, although I ame longe sythence so well satisfied therein as the same needeth no new confirmacion. I accompt you in the number of my best assured frindes, and do know that I am not deceaued, as lykwise I trust you make lyke reckninge of mee. Our coniunctions in frindshippes hathe many good and notable groundes, and therfore wilbe firm and perpetuall I doubt not. I wishe yt, and will take vpon me to answer for you, that you will not be sory for yt, and I trust we shall neuer repent yt; and here I thanke you most hartily as for a true effect of your professed good will for your frindship extended to my brother George Powlet many wayes, sithence his comminge to Gersey, and for your frindly care of the quiet estate of that Isle duringe this tyme of my absence, wherof I haue ben advertised of my said brother. This quiet tyme yeldeth no matter worthie of aduertisement, referringe you for soch as yt ys to this berer M^r Dannet, my late secretary, & now departed from me with my very good will in respect of his preferment. He cann informe you very well of the state of this Court and Kingdom. He ys an honest man, well given in religion, and worthie of your good will, &c.

TO M^R RICHARD DRAKE.

S^r, I thanke you most hartily for your lettres, sent by my servant Chechester, and am no lesse glad to perceiue by the same, that you

remaine my good frend after the ould fashion, and that your good will towards me ys nothings dimynished by my longe absence. I pray you thinke that I will neuere be behynd you in theis good offices, and so I know you accompt of mee. I am very glad to heare that the hobby you wryt of beareth so good a price, not doubtinge but that his goodnes ys answerable thervnto; and indeed I woulde haue hym good and faire, or not haue hym at all. I deale very bouldly with you, because I thinke you would haue yt so. But how soever you woulde haue yt, I will do so as longe as I liue. Your best way to haue your revenge ys to be as bolde with mee, and so you may be with great thanks. You tell mee that you wish my shorte returne into England; and I must confesse vnto you that I am lyke-wise mynded, wherein my chefest hope consistethe in my Lord of Leicester, vnto whom I haue wryten therin two monethes past, but I doe not heare that there ys any mocion made for my successor. I am now well entred into the seconde yeare; and two yeares in Fraunce may seme to be sufficient for one that hathe his mother in law lyvinge. Yt ys comonly a yeares worke to resolute vpon hym that shall serve in this place, which may be an occasion to keepe me longer here, if yt be not considered in tyme convenient. I pray you let me not want your remembrance to my Lord of Leicester.

This ys ynnoughe for this tyme, not doubtinge but that new occasions will arise dayly to trouble you, and you may be assured I will not spare you, where your frindship may stand me in any steed. This bearer M^r Darnet can tell you how the worlde goethe here. And so, referringe you to his report, after my most hartie commendacions, I comytt you, &c.

TO M^R DYER.

My good M^r Dyer, your frindly lettres wrytten at so great length are sufficient to recompence all former abstinence from wrytinge, if there had ben any; and yt is more then ynnoughe that you are

contente to let me know that you are willinge to wryte often. I am so well and so longe sythence perswaded of your vnfayned good will, that when you wryte, I accompt of you as one of my best assured frindes, and when you do not wryte I accompte the same of you. I am settled in this opinion, and I know you will never giue me cause to repent yt; where I may doe you any pleasure, I trust you will not forbere me; and in this meane tyme I will vse you as bouldely.

Yt ys comonly a yeare's worke to provide a successor for this place; and therfore I haue besought my Lord of Leycester to consider of yt, so as when I haue served a convenient tyme, I may not be forced to remayne here. Vppon theis deliberacions I trust yt wilbe considered that the best parte of my lyvinge ys out of my handes; that the dearthe of all thinges here ys extreme; and therfore two years' service may be sufficient. I pray you let me not want your frindly furtherance to my Lord of Leycester.

Bodinus de Imperio was neuer yet prynted, but wilbe before Easter, and then I will not faile to provide hym for you. And whereas you desire to be informed of the maner of the payment of the rents due to the King and thos of the nobilitie in this realme, and if the same be paid in provicions or in money, and if in money at what rate, I learne that the Kinge ys paid of his rents alwayes in money, after the rate of his ordonnance beinge in force at this tyme, and that those of the nobilitie are paid for there lands nere adioyninge to the howses where they make there ordinary abode, for the more part in provicions, as corne, wyne, powlage, and soche lyke; and for there other lands in mony at the rate before recited. And thus with my most, &c.

TO M^R HORSEY.

S^r, Althoughe my opinion of your good frindship was already so well grounded as yt needed no confirmacion, yet I was right

glad to receiue your lettres of the vijth of this present, wrytten so frindly as they might serue to confirme me if I had ben doubtfull. I trust yt will not repent you to contynue in this good disposicion vntill yt shall repent me to deserue yt, and so doe pray you to accompt of me, as of one that will onytt no good office that may serue to the norishinge of this good amytye betwene vs. Our bloody and violent accions are turned into sportes and pastymes, so as this courte yeldeth no new matter worthy of the wrytinge, onlesse I should wryte of soche daungerous reportes as are given out dayly against owre state and contrey. Yt may be feared least theis wordes wilbe followed with deedes, if some present remedy be not provided. We see our perill, and God will helpe vs to avoyde yt if we helpe our selues. Fare well, good M^r Horsey, & accompt me in the number of thos that loue you. From Paris, the 25th of December, 1577.

TO M^R SECRETARY.

Yt may please your Honor to be advertised that the xxvijth of the last M. D. resorted to my lodginge, where he declared vnto mee that after many meetinges and conferences with J. B., the said J. B. had now at the last assured hym that he was acquainted with all the particularities of the D. of N. his treason, as also with all that was practised by the Pope and the King of Spaine by the negociacion of Radolpha; and that vppon assurance of consideracion, worthy of a service of this ymportance, he woulde reveale all his knowledge. And further, whereas M. now beinge in this towne, ys not ignorant of the bottom of all the latter conspiracies betwene the Queene of Scotts and her confederates, vnder pretence to goe with the said M. to home, he woulde deliuer hym into the handes of soche as her Ma^{tie} woulde appoint at Caseluther or Heddberge. The said D. protesting that he woulde not be the informant to effectuat this devise

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onleast he might receaue her Maiesty's promise that the said M. shoulde not be touched iu his lyfe, which beinge saved, he referred hym in all other thinges to the consideracion of her Highnes. He added that he coulde be contented that J. B. shoulde also be apprehended, and sent into England with the other, vppon promise that he shoulde not be yll vsed, as indeed (saythe he,) beinge the meane of the apprehensionn of M., he doethe deserue good intertainement. He concluded that theis thinges could not be performed, onleast yt woulde please her Ma^{ty}, or you M^r Walsingham in her behalfe, to assure hym by two or three wordes, that J. should be well recompensed, who woulde do nothinge vntill he might see this lettres of warrant for his assurance.

I asked hym yf J. coulde not be perswaded to accept my worde and promise for his satisfaction, and to be contente to make presente declaracion of his knowledge in theis thinges, because I coulde not tell if the same might be soche as woulde abide no delay. He said (as before) that B. woulde do nothinge onlesse he had his warrant out of England. I toulde hym I doubted not but that he did already vnderstand all that M. did know, and therefore shoulde do well to reveale the same with his owne knowledge in the other thinges before specified, which might serue to good purpose, althoughe M. were apprehended. He answered that yt was not possible to get any thinge from M., wherin B. had don all that he coulde, but in vayne; and that if the said J. shoulde presse M. herein, he woulde not only repulse hym, but also conceaue an yll opinion of hym, and woulde wryte to the frindes of the said J. in Englande to his discredyt. But (quothe I,) where will you fynde that Prince in Cristendom (and specially in Germany, where they make great accompte of theire priuiledges, and dare not doe any thinge that shalbe to the derogacion of the same, yf for no other cause then to avoyd the displeasure of the other Princes theire neighbours,) that will deliuer a straunger into the hands of any prince what so ever? That ys no parte (saythe he,) yt ys you that must

looke to that. Yt is a matter that must be considered, quod I. D. C. (saithe he,) will not refuse the Queen your Mistres, no more then the P. of S. hathe done already. I toulde J. was neuer deliuered. In deede you say truly, (sayethe he,) but yt shalbe ynoughe for the Queen your mistres yf he be examyned vpon tortures, or otherwise at her pleasure, which [no] Prince that ys frind to her Ma^{ty} will deny; and I dare take yt vpon me (saythe he,) that this shalbe don at Seddan. I concluded that when a man coulde not do as he woulde, he must be content to do as he could, and because D. made no mencion of any consideracion to be vsed towards hymselfe, I thought good to vse soch speaches as might serue to assure hym that he should not finde her Ma^{ty} vngratefull.

Yt may please your Honor to be advertised that the xxviiith of the last, M. D. resorted to my lodging, where he declared vnto mee that I coulde not be ignorant of the Estate of the Low Contreys; and that so longe as they should contynue in the possession of the King of Spaine, he woulde be a daungerous neighbour to the Queen my mistres; as lykewise the King his master woulde growe too mightie yf they shoulde be annexed to the Crowne; and therfore yt were wished that theis Low Contreys were possessed by some third Prince, whoe, beinge erected to this Estate by the helpe of the Queen of England and the Frinch King, woulde contynue a good neighbour to them bothe, and coulde not be otherwise if he woulde; not doubtinge but that the Kinge his master woulde be contented to joyne with her Ma^{ty} herein; and prayed me to tell hym my opinion. I answered, I had neuere heard of this matter before; that the same was of good waight; that yt touched manie Kinges and Princes, and amongst others the Queen my mistres; that yt required a further consideracion, and therefore prayed hym to hould me excused althoughe I did forbear to vtter my opinion herein, which I would reserue for some other tyme.

He replyed that my privat opinion in this privat was [no] obligacion either to the Queene my mistres, or to me; and therefore did not

thinke that I would deale thus straungely with hym ; prayinge me ones againe to say what I thought. I toulde hym I knew very well that he would thinke great lightnes in me if, in a matter of this ymportance, I should answere hym hastily ; but, because he pretendethe this matter ymported her Ma^{ty} deeply, I prayed hym, as he made already good demonstracion of his good wyll in other thinges, so in this to doe the like, and to acquaint mee with the reasons that moved hym to be of this opinion.

Yt was easie to see that he was offended that I would not deale more frankely with hym, and yet, vppon hope (as I take yt,) to serue his turne, was contente to proceede in his discours, sayinge that the King of Spaine ys growen to be dreadefull to all Cristonedom ; that if his ffather had lyved in this tyme, he would haue byn lord of the better parte of all Europe ; that this man was of no valure ; that yet, by meanes of the Low Contreys, he had great meanes to annoy England ; that, beinge removed from thence, her Ma^{ty} shoulde haue no cause to accompt more of hym then of a gent. of 5000 frankes by the yeare (I vse his owne wordes) ; that lykewise the Frinch King coulde not be assayled by the Spaniarde by any other way then by the Low Contryes ; that the Spaniarde, beinge removed from thence, coulde not assure hym selfe against the King in anie his other Contrayes ; that therfore England and France shoulde doe well to erect Archducke Mathias to the Estate of the Lowe Countreyes, by the name of Count of the same, or by some such other tytyle. I asked him yf he knewe that Mathias would accepte this offer ; and, having accepted yt, that he would deale playnlie. I knowe youe thinke (sayeth he,) that he is come thither by the assent of the Kinge of Spaine, afferminge that he toke yt so and dyde beleue yt. But yt was to be considered that he was a yonge gentleman of great courage ; that he hade alreadie enteryd into quarell with his brother the Emperour ; that he could not forget the iniury done to his father by the Emperour Charles in his partage ; that when yt should please God to call the King of Spa: out of this worlde, he would not fayle

to pleade in possession of these Lowe Countreys ; and that being supposed [supported ?] by the Prince of Orenge, he would not fayle to entertaine hym in his honors and dignyties, which the said D: toke to be a thinge that woulde be agreable to her Ma^{ty}. But (quod I,) the King of Spaine lyueth yet, and maye perchance lyue longe ynoughe to force Mathias to seke another neste ; and then this hope to carie awaye the State after the death of the King, will proue to be a reckening without theire hoste.

He aunswered that Mathias and his frinds were able to defend him agaynste the King of Spaine as longe as the said King lyued ; and after his deathe the matter would be easye ynoughe. I asked hym howe he knewe that the Frenche King woulde be content to be of this matche. He sayed he knewe yt very well, and that he conferred theirein with great personages. Well, (quod I,) I will consider of this matter ; and at some other tyme I will tell youe what I thinke of yt. Yt is enoughe (sayeth he,) that youe doe allowe of this devise as a thinge profytable and honorable for her Ma^{ty}. Naye, (quode I,) I sayed not so ; yes and (by your leaue) will thinke better of yt before I allowe of yt or dysallowe yt. Then I asked hym yf he woulde not aduertise hys opinion herein vnto youe, M^r Walsingham, by his lettres. He aunswered that he would consider of yt. Thus I haue sett downe vnto your Honors plainelie and trulie, all that hathe passed betwene this man and me in this behalfe, refering the same to your better consideracion ; and nowe yt maye please youe to geue me leaue to say somewhat vnto youe of my simple opinion. The firste matter hath ben handled with great dexteritie ; these twoe honest men employing all theire conninge ; that D: is not ignorant of all that J. knoweth, but the prodigalytie of J. coulde not be maintayned nor his necessitie reliued, yf D. should vtter his knowledge in this matter without the helpe of the other. Also yt is not for nothing that this matter hath ben defered vntill this presente. Wherein he knewe as muche twoe monethes paste as nowe, and dyd then put me in great hope that he woulde revele his knowledg vnto me without delaye,

and therefore there is some other mysterie in this tracte of tyme. I am not ignorant that ther is great and straight frindship betwene J. and M. and am more then halfe perswaded that he [is] acquainted with all that M: knowethe, and theirfore this prety conveighans is also to be consedered. These men are not vnknowne, and therefore [it] shalbe mete to deale warely with them, so as yf there [conning] haue a further reache, the same may fall vppon their owne pates.

Touching the second pointe, I take it to be most certain that this man came not vnto me of him self, but was sent by great personages, wherin manie thinges maye be devined which are without the compasse of my charge, and therefore leaue them to your wysdomes. He is, no doubt, a faythfull servant to Queen Mother, and therefore I dealt as warely as I could with him; and yt seameth worthie to be noted that he shewed him self verye yll content that I would not allowe his proposition, wherin (no doubt, as in all other of this question) he sheweth great treachery. Yf this matter shalbe followed, yt may please your Honor to send M^r Beale, or some suche other sufficient man hether vnto me, aswell for my assystance herein as also to serue for a wittnes of my doinges, because these thinges may touche I cannot tell whom.

Yt is confermed vnto me of euery syde, that Strozey, La Roche, Lansacq, Sandreau, and others procede in their preparations of men, shipps, and munition, with pretence to goe to the West Yndia; or, as some saye, to [] in Afrique, but in dede to make some attempt vppon Ireland, as others of good judgment do ymagin, to which purpose they are sayd to haue secret intellegence as well with Fytzmorrice as with the Earle of Westmerland; or els to be in redynes againste the opening of the warre in this realme; and then to serue to make some exployte againste Rochell and the Isle of Retz. La Roche ys a gusard, and a man of no habylitie to beare the charge of any great enterprise; and yet he maketh accompte to bestowe in these prepa-

rations 200,000 frankes, which may sem to proue that this journey is furthered by some great personages. They geue out great speaches against y^e Spanierds; and I mislyke yt the more, because they talke of [it] so lowde. They purpose to cary with them 4000 souldiers. I haue sent to a good frind in Brittain for my better instruction in these things. Although these warninges canne not be vnprofytable, and shalbe good to provyd for the worst, yett I am not hastie to giue credyt to theas reports; because these bruits of some matter of attempt against her Ma^{ty} are giuen out manie times of purpose to make vs the mor vnwillinge to giue ayde to our dystressed neighbours. Thus am I bould to informe your Honor what I heare; and when you heare all that I heare, I am discharged, and you are to consider. But I am much deceiued if youe may not be bould to beleue these men intend nothings lesse then to performe their pretended voyage. The King ys said to giue them of his libralletie towards this jorney, twellue milliers of powder and 2000 shott.

Yt is aduertysed here, by lettres from Constantinople, that the Turke prepareth 300 galleyes, and 60 gallices, and many other great shippes for transportacion of his munition. And hauing made his peace with the Sophie, doth purpose to invade some parte of Chrestondom, and that the Venitians haue alredie assayed to buy their peace with a present of 300,000 ducatts; but for their better sewertie they haue nowe of late procured lettres from the French King to the Turke in their faviour. Yt is said that the Turke hath refused the tribut dew vnto him by the Emperour, and doth threaten him with warre.

The ligues are not only conferrmde, but also augmented in Guien, and all other parts of this realme; the nobyltie prepareth for a new warre, the townes lately rendred to the Kinge are fortyfied with garinsons, greate plenty of faire words, but nothing performed in dede of those thinges which were promysed: all meanes are sought to weaken the Protestantes. All thinges are done by directe commaundement from the King; a general massacre is feared; the

execution of these conspiracies ys deffered only by occasion of the slowe proceedinges in the Lowe Countreyes; great plottes are layed for great myschefe; and some great chaunge ys expected very shortlie. Thus much is written vnto me by principall parsonnages.

Osbourne, my servant, resorting to the French Ambassador, at his last being in England, to pray his pasporte for the yonge Rouswell, the said Ambassador asked hym howe I was intreated in France, whoe answered, verie well to his knowledge. The Ambassador replied that he found him selfe veri yll vsed theire; and that his house was so watched, as well towards the streate as towards the water, that no man durst come to hym; and that the banckers with whome he had to deale for mony, could not be suffered to resorte vnto hym; saying that he would not fayle to giue aduertysment therof to the King his master, and to pray hym to call hym from thence, rather then to suffer hym to be vsed there as a slaue or villaine, and alsoe to geue me like intertainement here. He concludeth that one Peter, a Frenchman, whoe came sometyme to him to begg or borrow a crowne, was threatned to be hanged for his so doing; and therby constrained to shaue his berd, and cut his heare of his head, and in that dysguised manner to convey him selfe away. Collins, his foteman, hathe bin here of late, whoe hathe vsed the lyke speaches vnto me, sauing that he sayeth that his master desireth nothing more then that I shoulde be intreated with all curteses.

One telleth me that he hath sene the lettres wrytten to Monsieur from the Estates, and signed by the Archeduke Mathias, and Wellaman, secretary of the said Estates, by the which they promise to geue them selues to his protection, in case the King of Spaine will not receiue them as his subiects.

Manie shiftes are deuised to gett money; and now, vppon the sale of the estate of a newe greffier, erected in euery court, a great some of mony is leavyed, as also the tailles are increased fiue soulz vppon euery francke, which wyll ammounte to a rounde somme, the same being vtterly refused in Languedocq, and other parts adioyning, as is

reported, whose requier to be reliued of manie other newe imposytions, afferming that they canne no longer enduer this heavy burthen.

I will not trouble you with the report of the manie seuerall quarells happened of late in this Courte, betwene the gentlemen belonging to the King of the one parte, and others belonging to Mons^r of the other parte; wherof the fyrst was betwene Rellus and Bassy; and yet I doe not think yt meete to neglecte the observacion of these tryfles, which may perchaunce breede some daungerous consequence.

Yt is tolde me that Moulina was the messenger at his comming out of Scotlande, of a motion of marege betwene the King of Scottes and the Princesse of Lorraine. Perigueulx hath ben in danger to be surprysed by the Catholiques; the practyse wherof was so clearly conveyed, as yt was not knowen vntell the verie instant of the execution, which was not without the death of many Papystes, besydes many others taken prisoners. Mons^r de Reffecq, gouvernour of Angoulesme, and Mons^r Bordelles, are said to be the principall authors of this seditious practise. Yt is sayd that the Mar^{ll} de Escosse shalbe sent thether to take order theirein. The King semyeth to be highly offended, and threatneth extrem punishment to the offenders; and yet I am credably informed, that a gentleman was willed to assuer the King of the good successe of this enterprise, more then one moneth paste. This treason doth thræten all the other townes of the Religion, and I thinke they will provyde for their sewertie.

Vppon motion made by my sonne to Mons^r de Foix, to procure order and commandement from the King to his Ambassador resident there, to assure her Ma^{ty} that her subiects shall trafique safely and quietly without anie molestacion within the gouernment of his master, with the other particularities mentioned in the said lettres, after conference had with the King, I receiued aunswere that he desiurd nothing more then to keepe good amitie with her Ma^{ty}, and that the traictes passed betwene them should contynewe in their force and vertue, promysing to wrighte to his Ambassador to such effect as I desired; and prayed

me also to write to her Highnes for the release of the French shipps; and that he would satisfie the English marchantes according to theire seuerall demandes. But, as youe haue well begone, so I truste you will contyniowe in this honorable course; and in dede yt cannot stande with her Maiesty's honour, or with the proufyt of the English marchantes, to stande to the courtesye of French justice. I did forbear to make this motion v or vj dayes, doubting least the same might hinder your procedinges in England, because I was assured that the marchantes departed from hence in verie good dysposition to compounde with you at your pleasuer, and dyd conceue that the said marchantes had not yet ben with youe at the making of this dyspatch. And thus, &c.

TO THE SECRETARIES.

January
10, 1577.

Yt may please your Honours to be aduertysed that, being nowe readie to dispatche my messenger with these other lettres, Monsieur Lansacq and Mons^r Pinart came vnto me from the King the viijth of this presente. Where the said Lansacq, after a long protestacion of his desier to entertayne amytie betwene these twoe crownes, entered into a iustification of that which had ben don of late by his sonne touching the Englishe marchantes; not commanded (as he sayed) by the King, but as a naturall father, that desiered the honor and reputacion of his sonne, and yet vnwilling to bring this matter againe in question. I answered that although I was not hastie to renewe these olde greffes, yet being prouoked, I would not forber to tell hym that this facte was vnworthye of his sonne; that yf his father had ben in his place, he woulde neuer haue done it; that the Englishe marchantes had done nothing contrarie to the trayties betwene these twoe realmes; and here I made a shorte recytall of the cruelties vsed towards them, concluding that her Ma^{ty} could not allowe of yt with her honor. The old Lansacq toke my speache in very good parte, or at the leaste

was content to vse no replication, and in dede dyd forbear to speake longe time after, saving that he sayed that if I had harde as he had heard I would beleue as he beleued. Then Mons^r Pinart entring into a long discourse of the demaunds of the Englishe marchantes, and of the slender value of the same in comparison of the excessiue interests and dommages sustayned by the French marchantes by occasion of this late arrests, deliuered vnto me their bill inclosed herein contayning particuler aunswer to the particuler complaints exhibited by the English marchantes, praying me to consider of their bill and to write in the favour of the French marchantes. And here he tooke occasion to tell me, as yf of him self (as he said) and not from the King, that the French marchantes were euell intreated in the West parts; that the gentlemen comming aboard their shipps would chepen the wares, and, agreeing vppon the price, would carie away the said wares without paying any mony for them; that this iniustice ought not to be suffered, and therefore, doubting least this kinde of dealing might breede some alteracion in greater matters, he desireth that order might be giuen for redresse therof. I told him I trusted the French shipps had ben deliuered long sithence, and, as I desired contynewance of amytie between these twoe Crownes, so I wished nothing more then that this contention were appeased to the honour of her Ma^{tie} and satisfaction of the English marchants; findeng the matter more strainge, for that I had ben aduertised out of England that her Ma^{tie} was content to make staye onlie of so many of the said shippes as might contrervayle the losses and dommages sustayned by the English marchants by the occasion of arrests made by the yonge Lansacq. Then Monsieur Pinart vsed many wordes to proue that, considering the place which I occupied here, I might doe many good offices to the benyfit of bothe Realmes, wherein his speach tended to a manifiest challenge, as yf I had not tendered the suits of the poor men, and had not ben carefull to prevent the danger that might ensewe throughe heat of contencion between her Ma^{tie} and

the King his master; and that yf I hade gone from Poicters to Brouage, as I was desiered, my treue reporte of the doinges of the younge Lansacq, vppon dewe examminacion of the same in that place, would haue appeased this strife long sithence, concluding that he had receaued a pacquet the day next before from Monsieur Maulvisiere, and hade perused his owne lettres, but hade not opened the King's lettres (as he said, wherin he spake as trulie as in the reste), and that the said Mauvissierie had writen vnto him that the French marchants hade offered caution any time theise fwe weekes, and that they could not be relested vntill her Ma^{tie} were further aduertysed from me, and that my intercession was verie necessarie herein. I aunswered that I would be sory to be inferiour to any whosoever in good will to conserue good amytie betweene these twoe Crownes, and that I hade omittted no good office that might searue to that purpose; that, indede, I went not to Brouage, and did not repent yt: nether would I goe yf like occasion were offered againe; that I had not bin requiered therevnto by the King; that Monsieur Lansacq did once tell me, meting me by chance at the dore of Queen Mother's chamber, that he wished me there, and could be content to make me judge of these causes; that this motion was to slender to perswade me to that voyage; that yf I hade ben there I could not haue made a [more] favorable report for the yonge Lansacque then his owne examinations made by his owne solicytours did purport; that the same were founde so slender and so contrary to them selues, as for my parte I was glad to see that the Frenche iniuries hade no better gronde; that these examinations, soche as they were, were sent into England; that her Ma^{tie} was not nowe ignorant of the whole surcomstances of this facte; that [she] did not deferre her resolucions vppon anie aduertysment to be receiued from me; that the Frenche Ambassador could not so thinke, and that I founde yt very strainge that he would so write. I cannot tell what I may imagine of this kinde of dealinge, onlesse the French Ambassador, finding him selfe greuid in England, to

worke me som dyspleasure here, would nowe lay the whole faulte of this arrests vppon me.

This ys the whole substance of the speach passed between vs, and now yt ys easy to see that this little inlardgment to the first resolucion hath brought the French into soche bouldnes as now they thinke they may be their own carvers. Surelie the French marchantes departed from thence with full resolucion to redeem their shippes with present payment. Wherein they did not loke to finde any favour, and semed to allowe of the proceedinges of her Ma^{ty}, laying the wholl faulte vppon those of their owne country.

Vpon the pervsing the byll deliuered vnto me by the ould Lansacq, finding the same to containe in diuers articles a justification of the arrests made by his sonne, and all the other articles no other thinge then bare promise, or rather mocks and frumps, I thought good to send the sayed bill agayne to Pinart, declaring vnto him that I would be sory to be the messinger of anye soche answer as would rather work a greater mislike in her Ma^{ty} then searue to appease her, and therefor, if they thought that this bill might stand them in any stede, they might send [it] to the French Ambassador; and yet, because you should not be ignorant of the contentes of this said bill, I haue sent the copie inclosed herein.

There passed long speach betwene Mons^r Pinart and my sonne, by occasion of the deliury of this bill, my sonne afferming that I founde yt strainge that the younge Lansacq would justifie those doings which the King had already disavowed. Yt is possible, sayeth Monsieure Pinart, that you doe not vnderstande the trewe sence of this worde dysavowing, which yf the King hade done he must haue punished the yonge Lansacq, and because he hath not punished him he hath not disavowed him. My sone replied that he had learned by me that the King dyd greatly mislyke, and was extremly offended with these doinges, which he toke to be a disavowing of the same.

Vppon soch other questions moued by Mons^r Pinart, my sonne

tould him, because he chardged me the day before that I had not done so good offices in this matter of arrests as I might, that I was the more vnwilling to be the messenger of this byll, because I should doe therin a verie badd office, which would serue rather to incense then to satysfie her Ma^{tie}. Yn the end, Mons^r Pinart tolde him that he was not of opinion that the Englishe marchantes should retourne any more into France vntill the King had better considered of the matter. My sonne requiered my pasport, and tolde him that yf he would send any thinge to the French Ambassador, my servant shoulde be at his commandement. He aunswared in great coller, that he would not borrowe my servantes, and that I should have my pasport in the evening. He shall take my next profer in more thankfull parte, by the grace of God, and [I] would not haue made this profer at this time, saving only to this end, that he might not denie but that, pretending to helpe him selfe by this bill, the same might be with the French Ambassador as sone as my lettres, if yt had so pleased him.

When I was readie to signe these lettres, a verie honeste man commethe vnto me, and telleth me that La Roche departeth from hence after two days, and that one Combelles ys apointed colonell of xij companies, to searve vnder La Roche in this journey, and that he hath said to his very freinds, that he doeth not knowe whither he goeth, nether shall knowe vntill the shippes be vnder saile, the same being in nomber xv or thereabouts. He supposeth that these preparacions are made for Rochell, and neuer the lesse he wisheth me to loke to yt. I leaue the consideration of these things vnto yovr wisdomes, and so commytt your Honours, &c.

TO MY LORD OF LEYCESTER.

January 10, 1577. My verie good Lord of Leycester,—This copie inclosed of my lettres to the Secretaries will suffice to excuse the shortnes of these few

lines, moste humblie prayinge your Lordship's good and frindlie aduice in the matter mentioned in the said lettres. I woulde be sorie to liue so long to comitt any fault whatsoever for wante of diligence or faithfullnes; but lacke of knowledge and experience may carry me into many errors, and especially in these dealinges of importaunce which are aboue my reach, onleat I be directed by better counsell. Yf the wyne mentioned in my former lettre be not yet arriued at London, yt may please your Lordship to belieue that no barke ys departed from Roan towards London during this mean tyme. And thus, depending in all my accions vppon your Lordship's goodness and fauour towards me, I comytt your good Lordship to the mercyfull tuicion of the Allmightie. From Paris, the xth of January, 1577.

TO MY LORD TREASURER.

My very good Lord,—I haue wryten some thinges at this presente to the Secretaries which I wish to be imparted to your Lordship for the furtheraunce of her Ma^{ties} service, and for my better direction therein shall most humblie pray your Lordship's good and freindly aduice, being not ignorant that in matters of this importance I may perchance offend daungerously for wante of knowledg and experience, and do trust that your Lordship dothe thinck that, as I would be sorie to be inferiour to the truest subiects in dilligence and faithfullnes, so I desier nothing more than your Lordship's direction in all my proceedinges, whereof I make singuler and especiall accoumpt, as of a most certayne rule to lead me to well doinge. I am right sorrye that I might [not] comitt these things safely to your Lordship's zipher, which I wish to be changed yf yt so please you. All thinges continew here after the French fashion. We cannot abide neather heat nor colde; warr ys too sharp, and peace ys too sweete, and now yt ys easie to see that (*cætera desunt*)

January 10,
1577.

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